



Salem Chamber

Convener | Catalyst | Champion

February 5, 2026

Senator Jeff Golden, Chair

Senator Todd Nash, Vice-Chair

Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire

Oregon State Legislature

900 Court St. NE, Salem, OR 97301

RE: Salem Chamber Written Testimony in Opposition of SB 1541

Dear Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Nash, and Members of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire,

Our organization represents over one thousand (1,000+) local businesses and forty-five thousand (45,000) employees in the Salem area. The breadth and diversity of industries represented by our membership demonstrate an intersection of the small businesses that collectively create our state economy. The Salem Chamber supports a healthy business climate, and a healthy environment but opposes SB 1541.

A climate superfund enacting retroactive financial liabilities harms business predictability and planning creating a negative ripple effect on our local economy leading to reduced job opportunities, increased cost of doing business, and pausing plans for small business expansion and growth.

Members who operate businesses involving trucking, landscaping, construction trades, general contractors, farms, nurseries, agricultural product producers, manufacturers, and commercial delivery services, are extremely sensitive to energy and fuel costs. These types of businesses are intersected with a wide variety of other businesses and industries which will ultimately increase the costs of all goods and services for Oregon consumers.

SB 1541 would increase the costs for businesses with retroactive unplanned expenses for operating within the current regulatory framework, creating instability harming Oregon's competitiveness and ability to provide family-wage jobs. Oregon already has B5 and E10 fuel mandates ahead of California with successful decarbonization efforts for motor fuels. A cost-recovery program on greenhouse gas emissions resulting from imported fuels will create higher gasoline, diesel, and heating fuel prices. Legislation altering existing regulations with uncertain retroactive penalties incentivizes businesses to seek location outside our state. At a time when Oregon is investing in prosperity initiatives, this would impede the success of our economic recovery goals.

Respectfully,

Tom Hoffert, CEO Salem Area Chamber of Commerce

Salem Area Chamber of Commerce

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Chief Executive Officer

Tom Hoffert
Salem Area Chamber of Commerce