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On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1541

Chair Senator Golden, Vice-Chair Senator Nash, and Members of the Committee: I fully support SB 1541. I have lived in Southern Oregon for 49 years, and until the last decade never experienced what has been happening now with regularity: smoke-filled summers, lack of precipitation, and extreme heat during the winter months. I now live with anxiety that we will have inadequate drinking water, summers in which we cannot enjoy Oregon's magnificent outdoors due to smoke from increasing wildfires, and air that is often unhealthy to breathe.

While some deny climate change is the cause, this denial is challenged by how rapidly these changes have come. There is no question but that pollution is a major cause of this--and largely driven by our energy-producing corporations that have failed or been reluctant to switch to alternative sources of energy. Those that are a cause of the negative impacts to our communities should more greatly shoulder the costs.

The funds that would be generated by SB 1541 would be used to increase Oregon's resilience to wildfires, help upgrade homes with energy efficient cooling and heating, strengthen our transportation infrastructure and electrical power grid, invest in Oregon's agriculture and fisheries, and more. This would help ensure that our communities which are most impacted by the acceleration of climate change are benefited the most.

As Legislators, you have the ability to shift the costs from your constituents to those who are largely responsible for what is happening to our communities in Oregon. I strongly urge you to support SB 1541.b