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

Legal and Constitutional Risks: Imposing retroactive costs for emissions from 1995–2024 may face serious challenges under federal preemption, due process, or commerce clause issues. Similar efforts in other states have led to prolonged litigation, wasting taxpayer resources without guaranteed recovery.

Economic Harm to Oregonians: Major fossil fuel companies could pass on costs through higher energy prices, fuel surcharges, or reduced investments, disproportionately affecting Oregon families, farmers, manufacturers, and rural communities reliant on affordable energy. This could increase living costs and reduce economic competitiveness.

Uncertain and Arbitrary Process: The bill relies on complex, potentially subjective assessments of "costs" tied to historical emissions. Without clear, scientifically robust methodologies, it risks unfair targeting and endless disputes.

Better Alternatives Exist: Climate resilience should be funded through broad-based, forward-looking mechanisms (e.g., incentives for clean energy, federal partnerships, or existing state funds) rather than punitive retroactive measures that invite lawsuits and uncertainty.

Oregon needs practical solutions to climate challenges that protect jobs, keep energy affordable, and avoid costly legal battles. I urge the Committee to vote against SB 1541 or amend it significantly to remove retroactive elements and explore less burdensome approaches. Thank you for considering my perspective. I respectfully request that this bill not advance in its current form.