

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

Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Nash and members of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire:

I urge you to support SB 1541, which would establish a Climate Resilience Superfund. This fund will help Oregon communities prepare for, respond to, and recover from climate-related disasters. Under this law, large fossil fuel companies would contribute to a fund supporting resilience and mitigation efforts statewide.

As a lifelong social worker, teacher and researcher, I have seen firsthand how extreme weather and climate-related disasters affect families—especially those with limited financial resources. Climate disasters disrupt daily life, create serious health and safety risks, and result in lasting emotional, physical and financial strain on families and communities.

Today, the costs of climate disasters are largely borne by taxpayers, communities, and local governments. Too often, these costs fall heavily on households with the fewest resources to absorb them.

SB 1541 is about fairness, shared responsibility, and planning. It recognizes that major contributors to greenhouse gas emissions should help support solutions that strengthen community resilience and reduce future risks. Large fossil fuel corporations have long known about the deleterious effects yet have failed to act responsibly or share that information while continuing to profit enormously.

Now is the time to ensure that large fossil fuel corporations, which have the greatest capacity to contribute, take responsibility and fund resilience and recovery of the communities affected by climate impacts.

SB 1541 is an investment in Oregon's safety, stability, and economic resilience. It will protect communities today while reducing long-term costs and risks for future generations.

Thank you.