



February 5, 2026

To: Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire

Re: Support SB 1541

Dear Chair Golden, Vice-chair Nash, and Members of the Committee,

Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility (Oregon PSR) is an organization of over 2,000 health professionals and public health advocates working to address the gravest threats to human health and survival. As the climate crisis intensifies, the health of Oregonians worsens, and the price we pay will be high. For this reason, Oregon PSR is submitting testimony in support of the Climate Superfund Cost Recovery Program (SB 1541).

Already, the toll is mounting: smoke-induced asthma emergency department visits alone are projected to add an astonishing \$99.7 million to Oregon's healthcare costs in the 2050s. Each year, Oregon is confronted with sobering headlines: neighbors stricken by heat stroke during unprecedented heat waves, families struggling to breathe as wildfires blanket our skies in smoke, and frontline communities bearing the brunt of deepening health inequities. By holding polluters accountable for the mess they made, this fund will help build a healthier and more resilient Oregon.

Oregon PSR strongly urges the committee to pass SB 1541 for the health of our communities and future generations.

Sincerely,

Samantha Hernandez

*Healthy Climate Program Director*



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