

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

This is to urge SUPPORT of SB 1541.

Over the past several decades massive fossil fuel companies have made billions of dollars in profits while polluting Oregon's air and water. They knowingly sold products that damaged Oregon's air and water quality and the health of Oregon residents. And they covered up their knowledge of the damage being done.

Oregon taxpayers and communities have borne the economic and human costs of that damage, and at some level will not be able to avoid paying for those costs (environmental and human) into the future. But it is well beyond time to hold those entities who caused the damage accountable for the clean-up -- this includes billions of dollars of infrastructure repairs, wildfire control, forest management, flood abatement, and other critical resilience projects made necessary by the current, degraded state of our environment and climate. SB 1541 appropriately seeks to recover costs from the players that knowingly caused the damage -- major fossil fuel producers and refiners ("super-emitters") whose GHG emissions have increased the frequency and severity of wildfires, droughts, and extreme heat. Climate scientists expect that these climate crises will continue. Without the fossil fuel industry paying its fair share of the costs of past (and ongoing) damage, Oregon has no realistic strategy or means for meeting the climate challenges ahead. The community alone should not be held accountable for the costs of the fossil company's enormous, insidious profits.