

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

Dear Chair Golden, Vice-chair Nash, and Members of the Committee, Please support the Climate Resilience Superfund Bill (SB 1541). I'm a journalist, author, and long-time resident of Oregon. I wrote a book called The Sustainable Economy: the Hidden Costs of Climate Change and the Path to a Prosperous Future, published by Random House in 2020. The book takes a deep dive into the multitude of economic and social costs caused by the burning of fossil fuels, which largely go unmeasured and uncompensated. My years of research and reporting showed me that these costs are astronomically high. I also learned about some of the people behind these abstract numbers: the kids missing school because of pollution-induced asthma attacks; families who lost their homes to climate-boosted wildfires; the farmers devastated by droughts magnified by greenhouse gas emissions; and communities being devoured by sea level rise. Senate Bill 1541 would be an excellent way to start holding to account the fossil fuel companies that have reaped enormous profits while dumping enormous costs on us Oregonians. These companies have long known that their products cause grievous harm, yet they have been hiding that knowledge and spreading disinformation about the impacts of climate change and air pollution. The least these corporate behemoths can do is hand over a modest portion of their massive wealth to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help Oregon communities adapt to the damage emissions have already done and will continue to do. Thank you for considering my comments. Bob Devine Corvallis, OR