

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

When you make a mess, you should clean it up! That's why I support the creation of the Climate Resilience Superfund, to hold polluters accountable by making the large, out-of-state fossil fuel companies pay their fair share. This bill is important to me because I have heard several stories from communities members who I have had the pleasure to work with tell me about their experiences waiting for housing after the Alameda fire ripped through our city. A lot of people had to move because they had no place to go and the houses that were supposed to go to the people sat in plastic wrap for months while families waited. This, combined with the PTSD that myself and other folks experience every summer when the Watch Duty app goes off, is a feeling I can't even begin to describe. The paralyzing fear of wondering if we'll have to run again is nothing short of horrific. The smoke cover makes it hard to breath and is terrible for our aging population. Not to mention our children who have to grow up in this living nightmare. And just when we think that we will have a moment of peace, the insurance companies come in and try to gouge our community with their opportunistic greed. After the Palisade fires in California last winter, they tried to re-tool the fire map in Applegate, OR so that they could get more money out of folks living in rural areas. It was only stopped and changed back because the community stood on business. They should never have had to fight so hard in the first place or worry that they would be last to be taken care of. None of this should be allowed to stand. From wildfires to polluted water, we've seen communities across the state bear the brunt of our climate crisis. For too long, the cost of cleaning up the impacts of climate change has been the responsibility of us Oregonians and our local governments. We've been footing the bill while fossil fuel companies rake in the profits and continue their assault on our planet. That must end. As legislators, you have the power to shift the costs from your constituents to these mega corporations. I urge you to pass SB 1541 and finally make these polluters pay for the damage they've done to communities across our state.