

Submitter: Sarah Butler
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, I strongly believe that corporations who contribute to global climate change by polluting our atmosphere, land, and water should pay to clean up their mess. I pay for my garbage to be hauled away and disposed of properly. I expect the same for the companies that are using fossil fuels, forever chemicals, pesticides, etc. and leaving the toxic waste for us to pay for with our health and money. We are experiencing more forest fires, which mean more toxic fumes. We are experiencing more intense weather, including heat, torrential rains, and droughts. I learned about climate change in school the 1970s. Then we became aware of the hole in the ozone layer that was created primarily by CFC chemicals. The United States joined the Montreal Protocol and fairly quickly changed laws that reduced the amount of CFCs that were emitted into the atmosphere. The United States was also able to identify the cause of acid rain and the causes of why rivers were catching on fire. We put regulations in place to stop the pollution causing acid rain and combustible rivers. We can do the same for climate change. We have known about greenhouse gasses at least as long as we have known about the ozone layer and acid rain. It isn't too hard to figure which companies are poisoning us and our environment. CEOs of companies do not need to make millions or billions of dollars more in profit than what they pay their employees. They can make a little less money and pay to prevent their industry from fouling our homes and, forests, atmosphere, and waterways. Let's examine how climate change is affecting ticks. Ticks carry diseases that are harmful to people, wildlife, and pets. A veterinarian in Bend recently said they are seeing an increase in some pretty awful tick-born diseases in dogs lately. Ticks are expanding their range as the planet warms and opens up more hospitable habitat for them. As birds and deer and other animals move into new habitat with the warming climate, so do parasites, and the diseases the parasite bring with them. Native plants and animals have to either adapt, move, or die out when their habitat is changed by climate change. They become more vulnerable due to the extreme weather and invasive species. We aren't the only ones suffering from climate change. If companies want to avoid regulations and pollute our ecosystems, they must be held accountable.