

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

Dear Chair Golden, Vice-chair Nash, and Members of the Committee,
I'm writing to urge all legislators to vote YES on SB 1541, and to thank those legislators and their staff members who researched and crafted this important piece of legislation. I strongly support the creation of a Climate Resilience Superfund and the concept that those who make a mess (e.g., large, out-of-state fossil fuel companies) should pay to clean it up. As an older Oregonian, I believe we owe it to the younger generation to advocate for the systemic changes required to claw back a livable state and planet. Through my volunteer work, I've witnessed how deeply our young people care about the environment, and their concerns about growing up in a polluted, climate-insecure world. I'm on the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition's Education Action Team, which partners with public schools throughout the Corvallis School District. I'm also on the Green Team in a Corvallis elementary school (a Title 1, Spanish-English dual language immersion school). Each school day in the K-5 cafeteria, I help the kids separate their lunch trash from their food waste and milk waste, which is either composted or fed to several pigs (owned by 4-H kids who have attended the school). The kids are learning how they can help reduce climate-disrupting gases by composting food waste or feeding it to animals – instead of dumping it in the landfill. I can assure you that these students are eager to do their part on an individual level. However, individual action is not enough. We need systemic change to address the time-sensitive climate crisis that is robbing our young people of a livable planet. Big corporate polluters have been coddled and subsidized for far too long (while Oregon schools remain severely underfunded). It's time we hold these polluters responsible for their actions. Oregon legislators, please do your part by voting YES on SB 1541. Do not bend the knee to big corporate polluters. Use your power to fight for climate justice alongside the youth of Oregon! Margit Foss
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