

Submitter: Joyce Zook
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,

Wildfires have caused many people to be displaced for months, even years. My husband and I lost a home close to Elkhorn Golf Course in Lyons, Oregon. It was a place that held many years of memories as our vacation home. It was not as devastating to us as it was to neighbors whose homes were their primary residence. Besides the loss of homes, it was devastating to the natural habitats that existed there. The expenses to rebuild, reconstruct, were on the backs of individuals, local and county governments and non-profit organizations. The losses were enormous! This is just one example of the potential damages that occur not only with fires, but with polluters that are responsible for destruction of habitats and of human health.

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.

From wildfires to polluted water, we've watched as communities across the state have felt the worst 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.

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.

Joyce Zook,
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