

Submitter: Karen Ashikeh  
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,

AI generating Data Centers as well as other industries, like oil and gas storage facilities at Oregon's ports need to clean up their messes and pay for their own energy and ground water use or water use from nearby rivers and streams. AI exploits people's private information and sells it and should not be subsidized by local resources. Before permits and licenses are given for operations in Oregon these businesses need to develop their own resources for energy and water use or cooling towers instead of fresh water use. NO permits to operate unless you provide for your own energy and water needs.

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.