

Submitter: Sarah Guest
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 live in Bend, Oregon, where we fall victim to fire smoke every summer. I've noticed a significant difference in the level since I first spent summers in 2014 and 2015. I feel the smoke has worsened for the most part - I feel very lucky when we have out beautiful, clear, blue sky summer days. Watching how the LA fires ravaged the city, I have felt fearful that Bend could become the same. We are looking into getting insurance that would cover wildfire, just in case we are ever in that horrific situation. 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. 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.