

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

Dear Chair Golden, and Members of the Senate Natural Resources Committee,

My name is Marissa Thompson, and I live in Portland, OR. 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.

This bill is important to me because for decades, large polluters have dumped climate pollution into our air and water while we bear the cost of heart and lung diseases, lost homes to wildfires, and higher food prices due to water shortages. These polluters always knew this was happening, but continued to do it while piling up massive profits with no accountability. Now it's time they pay for the damage they've done. Taxpayers and local governments are already paying for the climate crisis, even though they're not the ones causing it. The costs of responding to climate-related disasters and of making our communities more resilient will have to be paid one way or another, but Oregon legislators have the power to decide who foots the bill. It's time fossil fuel companies that rake in record profits while polluting our communities pay their fair share.

From the tobacco industry to the opioid crisis, there is a long, bipartisan history of holding corporations accountable for the harm they know their products cause. The Climate Resilience Superfund is about basic fairness.

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.