

Submitter: John Elizalde  
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,

I'm an old guy who grew up in NY. Blue skies. Four distinct seasons. I went away to college and the service for about 9 years. I was shocked at the polluted skies I found on return home. That was over 50 years ago and in NY. I read this paragraph today: 'We are growing up in a time when climate change is already hurting our communities. Many adults probably think of summer as the outside time to experience the sun. Yet we can't remember a time when there haven't been major fires.... Ever since we were young, we were taught that when you make a mess, clean it up. We want a future where big corporations clean up the messes they make.' My grandchildren here in Oregon don't remember smoke free summer skies without fires. We know the climate is changing. We know the causes. We know the costs. Those costs are being shoved onto the public in general especially our children. These costs aren't 'externalities'. They are direct impacts of pollution (air, water, health). Polluters can and should pay the costs of their operations.

John Elizalde