

Submitter: Camille Hall
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 support the creation of the Climate Resilience Superfund, to hold polluters accountable by making not only large, out-of-state fossil fuel companies, but other large methane-producing businesses, including landfills, pay their fair share. From wildfires to polluted water, communities across the state have felt the worst of our climate crisis.

In Corvallis, wildfires contribute tons of waste to our overburdened landfill. Benton County has a Regional Landfill which takes waste from more than 20 counties in Oregon. By state law, wildfire waste, which is laced with PFAS from fire-retardants and other hazardous waste, is exempt from tonnage caps and hazardous waste standards. Toxic leachate from the landfill, laced with PFAS, is dumped into the Willamette River, affecting drinking water for Corvallis, Adair, North Albany and the southwest suburbs of Portland, Tualatin, Beaverton and Hillsboro. The cost of cleaning up this landfill and our municipal drinking water will ultimately fall to taxpayers in the State of Oregon, Benton County and other affected governments.

We, the taxpayers and ratepayers, will be footing the bill while a multi-billion dollar national corporation rakes in profits. As legislators, you have the power to protect your constituents from corporate polluters who use the power of the purse to poison our communities from afar and drown out our concerns with the help of legions of paid lobbyists. I urge you to pass SB 1541 to make polluters pay for the damage they do to communities across our state.

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