

Submitter: Dietrich Hange
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,

My name is Dietrich Hange. I'm a 7th grader at Evergreen middle school and I live in Hillsboro, Oregon. I want to tell you a story about a place that is special to me. Every summer, me and my siblings go to a place called Camp Adams. Camp Adams is a tiny village in the middle of 216 acres of mature temperate rainforest that hosts camps, retreats, and other events. For the past several years, I have spent about a week there in the summertime as a camper. It is a beautiful place with lush plants, tall trees, and a cool clean river that forms a perfect natural pool for swimming. Each night, campers gather around a big campfire surrounded by towering trees to sing songs and tell stories under a clear sky full of stars. There are bird watching tours, night hikes, and crawdad catching in the river. Campers spend time learning about the plants, birds, and other woodland creatures that inhabit the beautiful land and about how to connect with and preserve nature for the campers to come. But this place is in danger. Climate change is threatening the western red cedar. They have all been dying and the camp has had to cut them all down before they fell down. They are struggling to replace these with native trees, and they think they may have to choose a different tree such as the California redwood because of the warming climate. There was also a wildfire recently that came very close to destroying our beloved camp, as well as the animals that live there. And this isn't the only place facing threats from climate change. Many places all over the world are experiencing similar problems because of our heating planet. For decades, large fossil fuel companies have been dumping pollution into our environment while we bear the cost. In summary, fossil fuel companies have been making a huge profit at the expense of our communities and environments, while knowing what they were doing all along. These companies need to be part of the solution. The funds generated by this bill will be used to help Oregon by letting lawmakers invest in local businesses so communities affected by climate change the most can thrive. For our communities impacted by climate change, and for kids like me who want to ensure that the world we grow up in is safe and healthy, please pass Make Polluters Pay, Bill 1541.

Dietrich Hange