

Submitter: Charles Pratt
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,

Since I was just a kid, my parents taught me that if you make a mess, you should clean it up. This applies to businesses as well as individuals. 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. Smoke from wildfires has had a large impact on our family as we are often unable to enjoy being at our second home in central Oregon due to wildfire smoke. The fires seem to occur with increasing frequency during a lengthening fire season. From wildfires to polluted water, we've watched as communities across the state have felt the worst 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. The funds generated by the Climate Resilience Superfund will be used to make Oregon more resilient to wildfires, upgrade homes with energy efficient cooling and protection from the elements, strengthen transportation and the electrical power grid, invest in agriculture and fisheries, and more, to ensure the communities most impacted by the climate crisis benefit the most. 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. 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.

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