

Submitter: Valerie Stein-Retiz
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 family moved to Oregon 20 years ago because of its natural beauty, clean water and clean air. However, over these many years I have seen what pollution and corporate greed has done to this beautiful state and the rest of the planet. In the summers it's become too hot and too smokey from the fires to go outside and enjoy nature. In the winter we either get too much snow or not enough snow. These issues not only cause both physical and mental health issues it also impacts our economy. Tourist will not come here in the summer or the winter anymore. Our local restaurants, and entertainment venues are struggling to stay open. Families can't afford to live here because there are no jobs. Our schools are closing and teachers, police officers and fire fighters cannot afford houses in our community, so they move elsewhere.

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.

Valerie Stein-Retiz
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