

Submitter: Ella Chaddock
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and
Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or SB1541
Topic:

When you make a mess, it's only right to clean it up. That is 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. Along with the opportunity of the fund to enhance community access to well-being and promote the growth of local economies across Oregon.

This bill is important to me because the climate has reached a tipping point. What other choice is there toward restorative sustainability than intentional, considered action?

we have the power to create/change the world that we live in, and the world that future generations will grow into. History is watching us. With this mindful power, the world that I know I am not alone in creating is one that is in true, equitable, harmony with the human and the more-than-human. It is problem solving, resilient and accountable. A foundational step in getting closer toward this reality is to tend to the one thing we all share common ground on; planet Earth.

In late summer of 2020, the Almeda fires of southern Oregon claimed my childhood home and neighborhood in Talent. The loss resulted in the relocation of myself, my family and other interpersonal relationships to different states. For over a year, I was separated from my mother who remained in Oregon. I was 13 years old. The toll of this shift on the health and well-being of my family weighed heavily during that time. I remember upon my return to Oregon feeling this weight lifted, that I was free and safe again, that I was home. I honor living in Oregon. While this beautiful state is home and a haven for so many of us, the way of life for numerous communities throughout Oregon has been of depletion and struggle due to the impacts of the climate crisis that is heavily contributed to by the actions of fossil fuel organizations.

From devastating wildfires to the pollution of our lifeblood -water, we've seen communities across the state bear the brunt of our climate crisis-Phoenix/Talent, Coos Bay, Baker City to name a few. For too long, the cost of cleaning up the impacts of climate change within our communities has been the responsibility of us Oregonians and our local governments. We've been footing the bill while fossil fuel companies welcome the profit. That must end. A change is long overdue.

The passage of SB 1541 and the Climate Resilience Superfund is not only justice in action, it is a further step into a more sustainable, resilient, and courageous future. Who do we need to be in the eye of those before us and those after us?

As legislators, the power to shift the costs from your constituents to these mega corporations is in your hands. I urge you to pass SB 1541 and ensure equitable treatment for the well-being of Oregon residents, and to allow accountability to be taken for the damaging impacts to the climate of communities across the state.

“All that you touch, you change. All that you change, changes you.” - Octavia E. Butler, Parable of the Sower.

Sincerely,
Ella Chaddock