

My name is James Haugh, and I support SB 1541. I am a freshman at Lake Oswego High School, an intern with the climate focused organization, Our Future, and a member of my school's Green Team. Ever since I was young, I have cared deeply for the environment, and have had to manage climate anxiety. I remember when my family would go for road trips across our beautiful state. We would often pass along giant smokestacks, ominous dark clouds spilling out of them. Even as a young kid, I understood this was wrong.

My mother deals with asthma, a medical condition that affects breathing. Over the years, as I got older and the air got more polluted, I've noticed it getting worse. During early September 2020, when wildfires raged across our state, and ash filled our air, my mom had a particularly hard time. We had to shove blankets under our doors, and buy 3 separate air purification machines, just to make sure my mother didn't die. My dad, sister and I only left our house to take our dog to the bathroom, and you could feel the smoke particles in the air, weighing you down. My mom however, wasn't able to leave for two straight weeks. I remember looking out a window, seeing a harsh red sky, and thinking a hellish apocalypse had arrived. Luckily, the fires were put out, air quality gradually improved, and my mom was finally able to step outside again. Unluckily, however, that infernal air quality could become our everyday lives if big fossil fuel companies continue without consequence. I am terrified of a world where Oregonians like my mom can't even breathe, just because some huge corporations were greedy and didn't think about the consequences. I wholeheartedly believe that SB 1541 would both discourage further polluting, and help reduce the effects caused by the polluting that has already happened. Please vote YES on SB 1541.