

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

Dear Chair Golden, Vice-chair Nash, and Members of the Committee,

When you make a mess, you should clean it up. That's why I support SB 1541 and the creation of a Climate Resilience Superfund that holds large, out-of-state fossil fuel companies accountable for the damage they've caused. These corporations have profited for decades while Oregon communities are left to bear the costs of a worsening climate crisis.

I work in oak woodland restoration using prescribed fire here in Oregon. A core part of this work is protecting people and communities—not just during wildfire emergencies, but long before smoke is in the air. Most of what we do is prevention: restoring fire-adapted landscapes, reducing hazardous fuels, and helping communities prepare so fires are smaller, safer, and less destructive when they do occur. Prevention works, but only if it's adequately and consistently funded. As fire seasons grow longer and more severe, this work has become far more dangerous and complex. Worsening fire behavior, drier fuels, and extreme weather windows make it harder to conduct prescribed burns and other mitigation work. At the same time, when prevention is delayed or underfunded, the risk to firefighters, land managers, and nearby communities increases. Defensible space, fuels reduction, and community preparation are some of the most effective tools we have to protect lives and homes. But these actions must be affordable and accessible. Many rural and underserved communities want to do this work but simply don't have the resources. Without dedicated funding, mitigation becomes a privilege instead of a public safety necessity.

Uncertain and inadequate wildfire budgets have real consequences. I've seen the stress that comes from trying to plan and carry out critical work without knowing if funding will exist next year—or even next month. Projects are delayed, partnerships are strained, and opportunities to reduce risk are missed, all while fire danger continues to grow. In my region of Oregon, I've watched oak woodlands decline, fuels build up, and communities face repeated smoke and evacuation threats. I've also seen how proactive fire management and restoration can make a real difference when resources are available. Dedicated, stable wildfire funding is urgently needed to protect these landscapes and the people who depend on them. For too long, Oregon taxpayers and local governments have shouldered the cost of cleaning up climate-driven disasters while fossil fuel companies reap record profits.

SB 1541 gives you the power to shift that burden where it belongs. I urge you to pass SB 1541 and ensure that polluters pay their fair share to protect Oregon's communities, landscapes, and future.

Sincerely,

Tiffany Perez Restoration and Fire Project Manager Eugene, Oregon