

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

Chair and Members of the Committee, I am writing to urge your full support for SB 1541. Now is the time to establish the Climate Resilience Superfund and ensure that the largest out-of-state fossil fuel polluters—not Oregon taxpayers—pay for the mounting costs of our unstable climate. For decades, these multinational corporations have extracted massive profits while dumping pollutants into our atmosphere and water. They have long known the consequences of their business models, yet they chose profit over our safety. Today, Oregonians are footing the bill. From the devastation of catastrophic wildfires to the degradation of our water sources and the life-threatening impact of extreme heat, our communities are bearing the brunt of a crisis we did not create. The financial burden of disaster recovery and resilience-building is immense. Currently, this weight falls on local governments and everyday citizens. SB 1541 is built on the fundamental legal principle of 'polluter pays.' Much like the precedent set with the tobacco and opioid industries, corporations must be held accountable for the harm their products cause. While federal action remains stalled, Oregon has the opportunity to lead. We are not alone in this effort; states like Vermont and New York have already paved the way with similar legislation. By passing SB 1541, Oregon joins a growing movement of states refusing to let mega-corporations privatize profits while making the public pay for their mess. You have the power to protect your constituents' wallets and our state's future. Please vote SUPPORT SB 1541 to shift these costs back to the companies responsible and ensure a resilient Oregon for generations to come. Sincerely,
Deborah Clark Shedd, Oregon