

Submitter: Mary Slemp
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,

As children, we were taught that if you make a mess, you have to clean it up. It is common sense. For this reason I am supporting the creation of the Climate Resilience Superfund, which would hold polluters accountable by making the large, out-of-state fossil fuel companies pay their fair share for clean up that occurs with polluted water and wildfires.

Last summer, the town of Rowena, Oregon, which is just a few miles from where I live, was completely wiped out from a wildfire. I personally know two people who lost everything. It isn't clear who was responsible for the start of this fire, but if this Climate Resilience Superfund was in place, then it is possible one or more of the large fossil fuel corporations would be responsible for the damages incurred in this situation. I have never been so close to a wildfire. We could watch it burning up the hill. In fact, my husband and I evacuated our home. We were at a level 2, but I didn't want to wait. I wanted to pack what was irreplaceable and get as far away as possible. It was a very stressful situation. I cannot imagine having my house burn down, losing everything we own.

I feel it is time to make fossil fuel companies pay the bill instead of raking in the profits. They are largely responsible for our climate change, with no regard for what is happening. As legislators, you have the power to shift the costs from your constituents to these mega corporations. I strongly urge you to pass SB 1541 and finally make these polluters pay for the damage they're done to communities across Oregon.

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