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

The Southern Oregon community has always relied on the environment. From the Rogue and its tributaries, to the slopes of the Cascades and the Umpqua national forest. The nature that surrounds us is of the most importance for not just our culture; but also for our livelihoods. The problem with this is; we no longer have the ability to use these things. Pollution has weakened our lands, killed our native species, weakened our fire resilience, made our water toxic, introduced new diseases, and made the seasons inhospitable. The salmon runs are depleting by the year, the fires continue to grow more numerous and become more severe, and the creeks and rivers either flood our lands or run as dry as the dunes to our east. And the worst part about all of this? We the people are not the ones to blame. The few people who have caused these ecological disasters sit in their offices in New York, London and Tokyo. While we remain here among our burning polluted remnants of a locale, they are getting fat lying on their stolen hordes of blood money. The ecological problems we now face are not natural, this was not an overnight switch from our past paradise to the current ever-decaying hellscape. Go look at the proof before you; go look at the lashings the polluters put on the mountains with their clear cuts, go look at the viscera of oil strewn along our banks and beaches, go look at the trees being eaten alive by new diseases and bugs that have traveled north because of global warming. Gaze upon them and then come back and tell me whether you believe these things are truly "natural". These problems originate not from a natural cycle, these problems originate from centuries of abuse and neglect that have left our environment on its last breaths and us scrambling for solutions. Solutions that are evidently few and far between. The state's looming economic crisis has left Oregonians wondering if the buses are even going to run. Let alone have enough cash to rebuild and repair the nature that surrounds us. Our fractured and dying ecosystems lay trapped beneath the pollution and slag laid down by these megacorporations and billionaires. The state is at a loss and cannot seem to find an answer to the question of how do we unearth our trapped and dying environment? We gather here today not for a funeral or remembrance of our environment though. We gather here today because we have found a solution to our problems. Climate justice is similar to all other types of justice in that the perpetrators of crime must be held accountable. These millionaires, billionaires, firms and corporations that rape and plunder our land need to pay for their crimes. These entities and billionaires believe they have transcended above our humanity, they think of us as pawns in their little game of monopoly. But, we need to strike back and hit them where it hurts. Their pockets. Stand up for your neighbor, stand up for your community, stand up for your environment, and stand up for what's right. We the people want to, need to, WE have to make the polluters pay.