

Submitter: Roberta Richards

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and
Wildfire

Measure, Appointment or
Topic: SB1541

Greetings.

My name is Roberta Richards. I am an Oregonian, a librarian, and a mother. Please consider my testimony in strong support of S 1541. The climate crisis is already costing our state millions as we try to recover from the devastating impact of wildfires, droughts and floods. As I write this testimony in early February, our wonderful ski resorts and recreation outfitters are suffering significant economic harm by our strangely dry and warm winter. We also need to be prepared for these harms to get dramatically worse. Our federal government, perversely, is dismantling our nation's efforts to mitigate the climate crisis while doing all it can to promote the release of greenhouse gas emissions. Who should pay for these costs? We will all pay for this with our health and sense of well-being. Let's have the polluters who created this crisis at least pay for some of the economic costs. New York and other states have passed similar legislation, and many other states are considering it. Oregon definitely needs the funding, which makes the proposed SB 1541 an excellent option. SB 1541, the Climate Resilience Superfund Bill requires Big Oil to pay their fair share for climate-related disasters and to fund solutions that prepare our communities for future impacts. Funds will be prioritized for wildfire preparedness, recovery, and climate resilience projects, such as: ? Preparing homes, buildings, powerlines, and more to be wildfire safe; ? Sustainable, preventative work such as controlled burns to reduce wildfire risk; ? More energy-efficient cooling and home weatherization to protect us from extreme heat and smoke, while lowering utility bills; ? Rebuilding better and more resilient after major floods or wildfires; ? Combating water shortages with more efficient irrigation equipment for Oregon farmers. Currently polluters prosper while ordinary people and the planet pay the costs. Please take this modest, reasonable step to balance those scales. Thank you.