

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

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

My name is Rev. Aric Clark. I live in Milwaukie, OR. I serve two churches that have food pantries and work regularly with a mutual aid group called Feed The Streets. All of these organizations have seen an increase in the past 5 years of people who need food because they are living outside or in precarious situations after having been displaced by wildfire or other natural disasters and economic factors attributable, in part, to climate change. I have been bringing meals periodically to one couple, Bill and Janice, who have been living in their RV since their home near Medford was destroyed in the August 2020 fires. They have had to move their RV from neighborhood to neighborhood because of complaints that they are a burden on local services. Right now it is nonprofits and mutual aid groups and public municipal services that are bearing the costs of caring for our neighbors whose lives have been made insecure due to the greed of fossil fuel companies who have profited at everyone's expense, while their own research for decades indicated exactly what would happen. It is past time that our states begin making polluters pay the real costs of their industries and stop treating our beautiful forests and homes and human lives as externalities. Please do everything in your power to pass this bill. Thank you.