

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

When you make a mess, you should clean it up. That's why I support the creation of the Climate Resilience Superfund, to hold polluters accountable by making the large, out-of-state fossil fuel companies pay their fair share.

This bill is important to me because the pollution caused by these companies has done damage to our sacred environments that not only affect the land, but our very livelihood.

Back in the loathed year of 2020, the Alameda fire sent my family and me running as the fires came too close to our home. What started as a normal day from school turned into a sudden road trip of panic and confusion when my mother suddenly started driving all the way up to Portland to get away from the fire. While my family was lucky enough to not have anything burned down, it gave me a serious realization on how serious and devastating these climate disasters can be. Many people were left homeless, lost their businesses, and three poor souls even lost their lives. And these acts of pollution actively making the environment worse and potentially causing even worse incidents in the future is something that shouldn't be so easily excused! Despite all the effort that's being put into healing the earth's climate, there is still much more that can be done. Starting with the ones causing these messes to, literally, pay for their mistakes.

From wildfires to polluted water, we've seen communities across the state bear the brunt of our climate crisis. For too long, the cost of cleaning up the impacts of climate change has been the responsibility of us Oregonians and our local governments. We've been footing the bill while fossil fuel companies rake in the profits. That must end.

As legislators, you have the power to shift the costs from your constituents to these mega corporations. I urge you to pass SB 1541 and finally make these polluters pay for the damage they've done to communities across our state.