

Submitter: Bob Sweet

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1541

I am writing to 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. I'm sure you've heard from others: When you make a mess, you should clean it up. Parents say this to their children. Why? Is it only so the parents don't have to deal with the mess? No. It's because it's good for the child as well. It teaches responsibility, accountability and that we're only a healthy civilization when we think of others.

As individuals, we are doing our part. We've installed a heat pump, a hybrid electric water heater, an induction range. We're down to one car and looking to exchange that for an electric cargo bike. This involves costs, sacrifices. But it also feels good. Feels right. It's time for giant fossil fuel corporations to do likewise: Pony up for the damage they've done. Sacrifice for the good of all, especially our disadvantaged frontline communities who are bearing the brunt of climate disasters.

I've seen opposition statements bemoaning an increase in taxes. That's not in this bill. I've read complaints that this will send a message that Oregon is not a friendly place for business. Who wants a business that takes our money without putting anything back into the state and leaves behind a ruined environment? These extractive practices must stop. The Climate Resilience Superfund is a positive first step in the right direction.

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.