

February 7, 2026

RE: Testimony in Support of SB 1541

Dear Members of the Senate Energy and Wildfire Committee:

I am an Oregon taxpayer and voter writing in strong support of SB 1541 that will finally require multi-national fossil fuel companies (those that have emitted more than 1 billion tons of greenhouse gases between 1995-2024) to pay their fair share of the cost of the damage their businesses have caused to Oregon's environment. It's disturbing and puzzling to think these large companies have been reaping huge profits while the state, our communities, and Oregon taxpayers subsidize their costs of doing business. These companies have used - and damaged and destroyed - our natural resources while we pay the cost.

Our state and communities can no longer subsidize these large polluters. We are in a crisis with wildfire costs reaching more than \$350 million last year alone in Oregon. This does not even include the damages from other environmental disasters (flooding from atmospheric rivers, heat, drought, etc.) caused by climate warming largely from fossil fuel production. Nor does it include climate adaptation efforts, the incalculable damage to our natural environment, the health care costs associated with increasing respiratory and other climate-related illnesses, and climate-related business interruptions and losses.

The Climate Resilience Superfund bill, SB 1541, will require multi-national fossil fuel companies with 1 billion tons of greenhouse gas emissions over a several year period to pay their fair share for polluting the environment; the bill will enable state and local communities to fund wildfire preparedness and recovery and also climate resilience projects. The start-up costs for this fund are de minimis given what the state, our communities, and taxpayers will pay this year, next year, and for years to come, if the legislature fails to act.

It's disappointing to see so much disinformation offered to the Committee in opposition to the bill. Because the bill targets only the largest polluters' profits, (i.e., their cost of doing business that causes environmental damage), there will be no increased costs to consumers; there are no increased costs for other businesses. In fact, the funds recovered from these largest polluters will provide much needed relief to Oregon's communities including their small businesses and families that have been and will be devastated by climate disasters caused by these fossil fuel companies.

Oregon has no other realistic strategy for addressing the climate disasters that are happening now and that will only multiply in the years ahead. Please vote yes on SB 1541.

Laura Allen
Seaside, Oregon