

Submitter: Michael Berry
On Behalf Of: Self
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1541
Chair Golden, Vice–Chair Nash, & Members of the Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire
Subject: Opposition to 2026 SB 1541

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony. I oppose this bill. I encourage you to kill it in Committee. If you do not kill this bill in Committee, then please oppose it with your floor vote.

In my opinion, this bill is ridiculous. Who wrote it- Chicken Little (DSA-OR), Esq.?

Ostensibly, the bill would seem to be intended (among other things) to justify and win support by the people's elected representatives for the imposition of "environmental justice" by exploiting emotions (including fear)... emotions that have been created and intensified by a years-long campaign promoting climate alarmism. "The sky is falling." "We have no future." Am I right?

But, the "guilt" of perpetrators, and their share of financial penalty/restitution, would NOT be determined by the people's elected representatives. Instead, it would be determined by a commission, the Environmental Quality Commission (EQC), which is made up of members appointed by Oregon's governor(s). This (already existing) EQC would be directed to "issue cost recovery demand notices to entities determined to be responsible for the costs of climate change." Unelected commissioners who are unaccountable to voters wielding massive power with enormous consequences re: affordability of life. Just who do you think will end up paying the costs that they impose? Joe and Susie Average.

It seems to me that in reality, this bill is a "shake down" of resident Oregonians, visitors, and anyone who does business with Oregonians for still more revenue to fund various "woke" objectives... and ultimately the elusive Socialist Utopia. Am I wrong?

This statement has widely been attributed to Margaret Thatcher: "The problem with socialism is that you eventually run out of other peoples' money."

For those in control of the legislative agenda, and the party that has the advantage of holding a state government "trifecta" (that is the Democratic Party of Oregon), their

quest always seems to be- "Mo' money, mo' money", with little or no regard for limiting state government spending to things that are necessities and/or prudent and/or pragmatic. Grow up.

Again I encourage you to kill this bill, period.

Thank you.

Michael S. (Mike) Berry
Douglas County, OR
Senate District 1
House District 2