

Oregon Senate
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Nafisa Fai, and I serve as a Washington County Commissioner. However, I am writing today in my personal capacity to strongly support the Climate Resilience Superfund bill (SB 1541).

At its core, this issue comes down to responsibility and fairness. When you make a mess, you should help clean it up. For decades, major fossil fuel companies have profited while the costs of increasingly severe wildfires, extreme heat, smoke events, and infrastructure damage have fallen on taxpayers and local governments. When the consequences of an industry's activities create measurable public costs, it is reasonable to expect that industry to share in addressing those costs rather than placing the entire burden on Oregon working families.

Local governments across Oregon are already spending significant public dollars responding to climate-driven disasters, strengthening emergency preparedness, and rebuilding damaged infrastructure. Washington County and counties across Oregon are also being asked to take on new responsibilities while managing tight budgets, and many local governments are increasingly concerned about absorbing what effectively become unfunded mandates.

SB 1541 helps shift part of that financial responsibility away from taxpayers and toward the largest out-of-state polluters most responsible for these impacts. The Legislature has the authority to decide whether taxpayers and local governments continue to carry this burden alone or whether the corporations most responsible pay their fair share.

What I love about Oregon is that we have a strong tradition of holding harmful industries accountable for the damage they cause from tobacco to opioids. The Climate Resilience Superfund continues that bipartisan Oregon tradition of responsibility and accountability, ensuring that those who profit from harmful practices also help address their consequences.

I urge you to pass SB 1541 and ensure that the cost of preparing for and recovering from climate disasters is shared fairly, so that Oregon communities have the resources they need to stay safe, resilient, and strong.

These views are my own and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the Washington County Board of Commissioners.

Sincerely,
Nafisa Fai
Washington County Commissioner

Testimony in Support of the Climate Resilience Superfund (SB 1541)
Oregon Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire