

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

Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Nash, and Members of the Committee

SUPPORT for SB 1541

I am Estelle Voeller, living in Jackson County outside Phoenix and Medford. I have lived in southern Oregon since the early 70's, and have seen dramatic changes in fire intensity and frequency, increased smoke-filled days and serious decreases in snowpack and rain. In 2020 during the freak Almeda Fire, my household, including 2 with disabilities, had to evacuate through walls of fire in Talent that I will never forget. Our home and farm were fortunately intact, though it was days before we had electricity and a week for internet to be restored. Friends and strangers were not so lucky. One, a self-employed single mother, is still dealing with the consequences. She had paid off the mortgage to her first home two months before the fire, so her fire insurance had lapsed. Distracted by medical needs of a child, she had forgotten to set up fire insurance, so her loss of home, business equipment and supplies was massive. She is still struggling to rebuild her home.

The big fossil fuel corporations have known their products are primarily responsible for global warming since at least 1990. Yet they aggressively pursued production and profits, sought government subsidies, all the while hiding and denying what they knew. They should be held accountable and help pay for the damage they have caused, instead of leaving families and taxpayers with the bill.

This creative legislation will fund protection from climate impacts like extreme heat or cold, wildfires, flooding, and hazardous smoke that affect Oregonians in communities across the street. I especially appreciate that it supports communities most impacted by climate change, making sure resources go first to the people who are hit hardest.

I urge you to support SB 1541 out of basic fairness.

Estelle Voeller  
Medford, Oregon