

Submitter: Daisy Goebel
On Behalf Of: OAPA
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and
Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1541

Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Nash and members of the committee:

I am submitting this testimony on behalf of the Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association, and myself, in support of SB 1541. I was signed up to testify virtually on Thursday, but did not have time during the public comment period.

OAPA is a nonprofit professional membership organization of over 800 planners and those who work with planning in formulating and implementing development and conservation policies at the state and local level. I am a lifelong Oregonian and I have worked in both eastern and western Oregon in City, County, and private-sector planning. I currently own my own land use consulting practice.

As a planner, I have seen firsthand the ways that climate change is impacting, and will continue to impact our state. Working in John Day, I grappled with how to fund the replacement of a failing sewer system that was one bad flood away from dumping sewage into the John Day River. In Morrow County, I witnessed the community impacts of a toxic and inadequate water supply, affecting our agricultural capacity and our most vulnerable community members. Throughout the state, we've watched increasingly devastating fires touch every corner of the state.

The establishment of Oregon's Climate Superfund Program through SB 1541 represents a critically needed, fiscally responsible approach to addressing the mounting costs of climate change. By directing responsible entities to pay a proportionate share of these costs, the program creates a durable, equitable funding stream that reduces the burden on taxpayers while enabling essential climate-resilience projects across the state. The bill's structure ensures that Oregon can move from reactive spending to planned, strategic investment in community resilience. For those who say this bill will scare impacted corporations away from investing in Oregon, I say good. Corporations should be afraid of knowingly poisoning our people, communities, and natural resources; and they should expect that doing so will have financial consequences.

Climate change is altering the circumstances under which land use planning decisions are made. Land use planning elements that are impacted by climate change include changing development patterns resulting from floods and fires, protecting agricultural and forest lands, increasing the resilience of public facilities, protecting our valuable air, water, and land resources, planning for resilient

communities that can withstand natural disasters, and protecting Oregon's rivers, beaches, and natural areas.

This bill would bring us on par with states like Vermont, New York, Maryland and Massachusetts, which have advanced or enacted similar cost-recovery or climate superfund proposals to hold major emitters financially accountable for decades of climate damages. Oregon's bill is notable for its strong emphasis on environmental justice, and the integration of nature-based solutions, wildfire mitigation funding, and long-term health protection demonstrates a comprehensive vision that echoes best practices nationally.

To strengthen the bill's passage and long-term success, ensuring adequate early-stage administrative funding beyond the initial \$300,000 appropriation will be essential to build robust rulemaking, data systems, and stakeholder engagement processes. Continued transparency, regular public reporting, and proactive engagement can help sustain public trust and demonstrate the program's value as Oregon undertakes this necessary step to finance climate resilience and ensure the State's most vulnerable communities are equipped for increasing climate impacts.

We appreciate your attention to our testimony and would look forward to participating in the DLCD rule-making that would be established by SB 1541.

Thank you.