



# Action Hour: Make Polluters Pay

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**FLOODS. FIRES. HEAT. STORMS.**

**ENOUGH!**

**MAKE POLLUTERS PAY.**



# What does Make Polluters Pay mean?





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## What is a Climate Superfund?

- **Modeled after federal Superfund law and a proposal passed in New York and Vermont, the Connecticut Climate Change Superfund Act would: require major fossil fuel companies to help pay for climate-related damages and adaptation measures.**
- **A climate superfund bill would ensure that companies responsible for significant greenhouse gas emissions contribute to addressing the climate crisis they helped create. The bill would establish a program to collect funds from the biggest polluting companies to help the state pay for climate-related damages and adaptation measures.**
- **At least 40% of the funds will be prioritized for Environmental Justice Communities. Communities who are most impacted by the climate crisis.**
- **Big companies that have a business tie in Connecticut and that produced fossil fuels that resulted in over one billion metric tons of carbon dioxide-equivalent emissions from 1995 – 2025 would be held responsible.**

# Why this is important to Connecticut

**\$21 million in losses.**



Glastonbury, CT 2023

**\$1 million - \$5 million.**



Berlin, CT 2024

**Long-term health impacts from exposures to wildfire and wildfire-generated air pollution is \$450 billion.**



Hartford, CT 2023

**\$300 million in damages.**



Southbury, CT 2024

# Climate Change is Costing Connecticut Millions

- Connecticut will face \$5.3 billion in costs to build 394 miles of seawalls to protect vulnerable buildings, homes, roads, rails and other infrastructure by 2040
- In 2012, Hurricane Sandy hit the east coast causing over \$60 billion in total damage
- New England also has a \$20 billion fishing industry which is severely impacted by climate change.
- Connecticut public schools faced around \$35 million in new cooling costs between 1970 and 2025 to keep classroom temperatures below levels that negatively affect learning, impacting almost 8,000 students.
- Connecticut has received \$329.6 million in FEMA recovery assistance from 2011-2023, excluding funding for the COVID-19 pandemic. Moreover, this amount does not reflect the full cost of these disasters since it does not include insurance payouts, private funds used for recovery, utility repairs, and other aid from the state and other federal agencies beyond FEMA assistance.



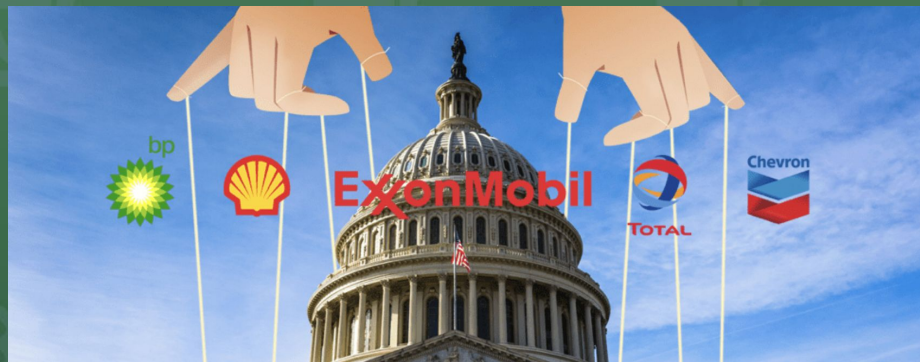
## How It Works

- Modeled off of federal hazardous waste site clean-up
- Applies long-standing polluters' pay principle
- Passed in 2 states and introduced in dozens more
- Creates a program and fund administered by DEEP to support eligible adaptation projects



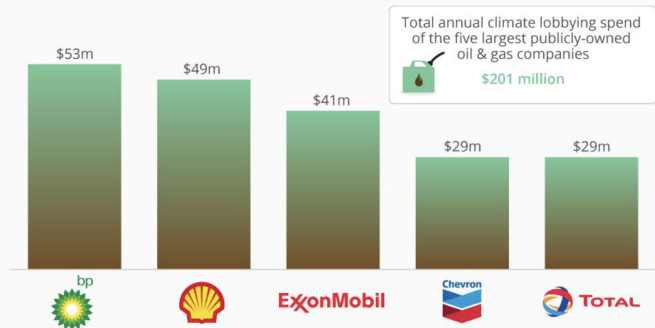
# The Fossil Fuel Industry Knew

- **1959:** Oil industry executives understood fossil fuels could change the climate. **industry scientists confirmed beyond a reasonable doubt** that the burning of fossil fuels contributed to anthropogenic climate change
- That same year, **Royal Dutch Shell** reported fossil fuels were releasing **2.5 billion tons of carbon annually** and warned it could alter the climate
- A 2019 study found fossil fuel interests have spent over **\$2 billion since 2000 on climate lobbying and public relations** to obstruct climate policy (conservative estimate)
- ExxonMobil **spent over \$30 million** (1998–2005) funding climate denial groups, according to research by Greenpeace
- A study in **One Earth** found the world's 21 top polluters caused **\$5.4 trillion in climate damages over 26 years**



## Oil Firms Spend Millions On Climate Lobbying

Annual expenditure on climate lobbying by oil and gas companies\*



# Week of Action!



- Over 100 people gathered for a rally
- Over 531 signatures to our [Petition](#)
- Delivered over 60 postcards to Legislators



# Growing Support

Over 10 op-eds and articles in the media just past 3 months!

■ CT VIEWPOINTS

**Opinion: CT needs a climate superfund, and it needs one now**

News

**Could CT legislators force polluters to pay for climate change?**

Opinion

**Opinion | Connecticut Needs A Climate Superfund Law With Corporate Accountability**

CT climate activists want a superfund to clean up the environment. Here's how it would work



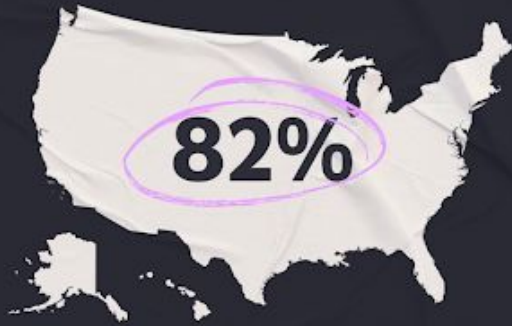
**Environmental Summit Evokes Anger And Hope**

Stamford, Columns

**We're Already Paying for Climate Damage, the Only Question is Why Big Polluters Aren't**

— David Michel, 1.26.2026

# Let's check out the Stats!



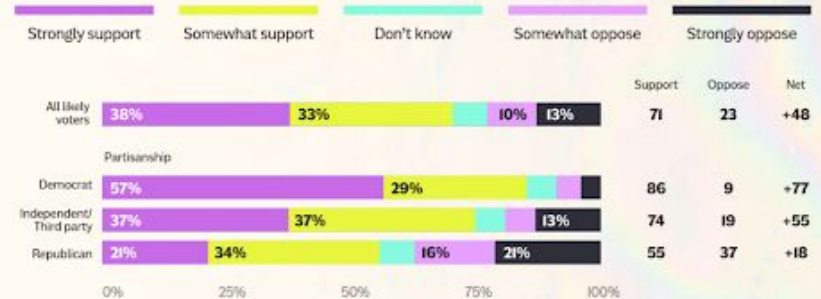
It's no wonder that **82% of Americans are very or somewhat concerned about oil companies making record profits while consumers face rising energy costs.** And by a two-to-one margin, voters say they don't trust oil and gas companies to prioritize American consumers over their own profits (Data for Progress, April 2025).



And **69% of voters agree oil and gas companies that knew about climate change but misled the public should pay for climate-related damages,** including a majority of Republicans and more than three-quarters of Black, Latino and young voters (Data for Progress, March 2025).

## Voters Strongly Support Oil and Gas Companies Paying a Share of Climate Costs

Would you support or oppose requiring oil and gas companies to pay a share of costs for climate-related damages?



**At least 53% of Republicans support or somewhat support!**



# Questions and Upcoming Actions

**2/20/26 – 9 AM Press Conference**

- **Legislators, Community Members Speaking**

**11 AM Public Hearing**

- **Testify via**
  - **Written**
  - **In-Person/Zoom**

**@sunrise.nhv**

**SIGN-UP FOR WRITTEN:**



**SIGN-UP FOR IN-PERSON/ZOOM:**



**TESTIMONY TEMPLATE:**



**TALKING POINTS:**

