

**MAKE
POLLUTERS
PAY**

October 2024

Climate Superfund Bills

(or how to make polluters pay for the damage they're doing to our climate and communities)

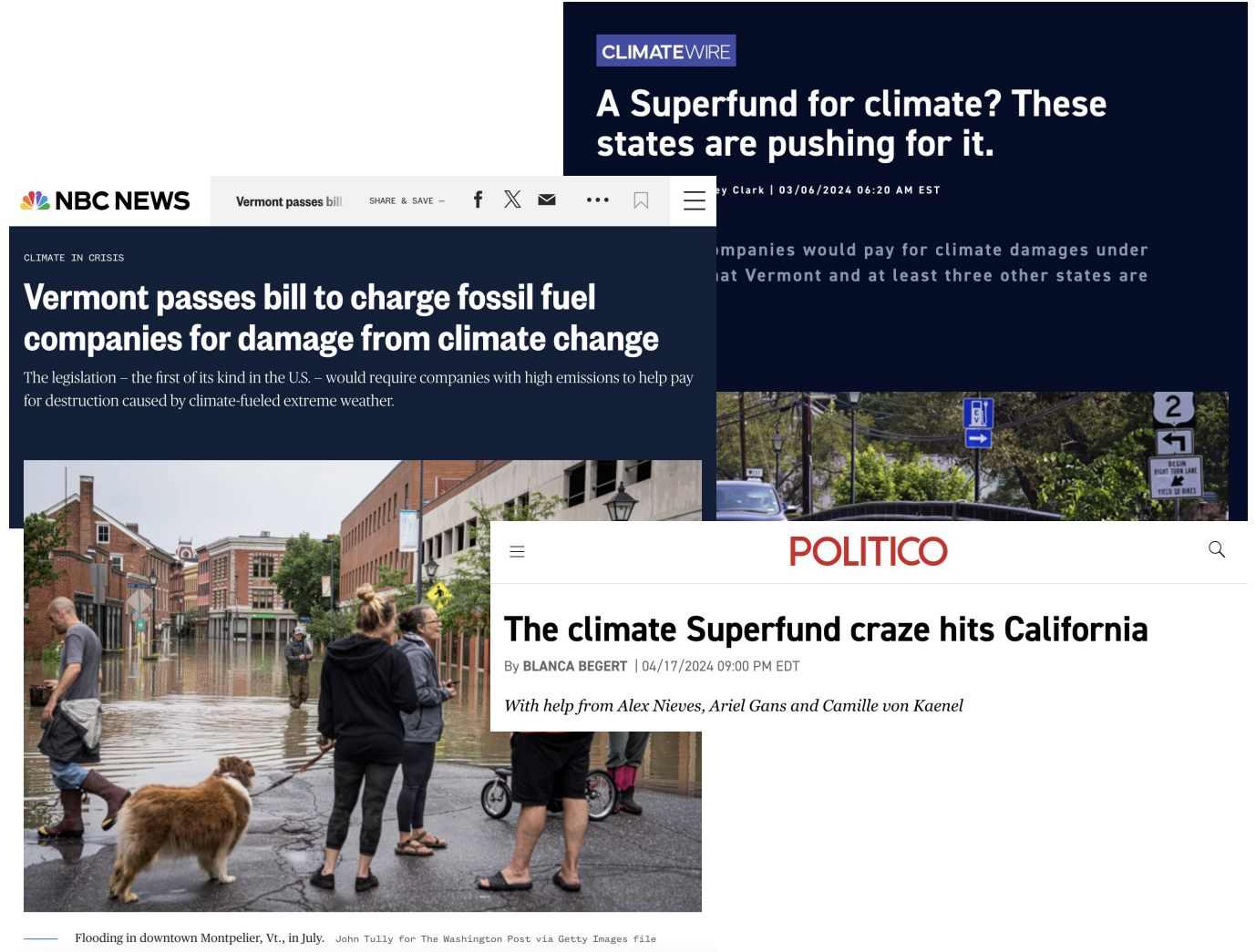
OVERVIEW

There's a growing push to Make Polluters Pay

33 states and municipalities are now suing Big Oil for climate damages. 5 states & Congress are now looking at another way to make polluters pay: climate superfund legislation.

Find out more here:

<https://climateintegrity.org/lawsuits>



HISTORY

The origins of the Superfund Program

In 1978, Lois Gibbs and other community organizers in Love Canal found out toxic chemicals were poisoning their children. They sparked a nationwide movement that helped establish the first Superfund Program.



OVERVIEW

How Superfund works

Superfund is our largest environmental remediation program, established by Congress in 1980.

Superfund operates on a 'polluter pays' principle, originally raising money from an excise tax on petroleum and chemical industries, and now going after polluters for specific projects.



OVERVIEW

A Climate Superfund

Climate Superfunds apply the "polluter pays" principle to greenhouse gas emissions.

States either choose an amount of damages or set up a process to calculate them.

They then require large fossil fuel companies (with over 1 billion tons of CO2 emissions) to pay into the fund based on their share of emissions over an established period.



QUESTIONS

Who would pay?

Polluters! While details vary state by state, each bill would only target the largest fossil fuel companies, whose products have had the most outsized impacts on the climate in each state.

Some states seek to collect a set amount, while VT and CA require the state to do a full assessment of impacts to inform cost recovery demand calculations.





QUESTIONS

Where would the money go?

Collected fees would go to state-managed funds for climate resilience projects, mitigation, adaptation, and just transition support, prioritizing frontline communities, low-income neighborhoods, and communities of color.

States like New York are looking to collect up to \$75 billion, while the federal legislation collects \$1 trillion.

QUESTIONS

How does this relate to the lawsuits?

They're complementary, but parallel tracks.

Climate superfund legislation works to set up a fund to deal with climate impacts, while climate lawsuits work to hold companies legally accountable for misinformation and damages.





QUESTIONS

Won't costs be passed onto consumers?

There's no justification to make consumers pay: these penalties don't impact the cost of production, Big Oil is making record profits, and engaging in massive stock buybacks.

The best way to help control prices is to pass stricter regulations on this industry. Otherwise, they'll keep making us pay the cost of their profits.

QUESTIONS

How does this fit with climate disaster response?

The demand to Make Polluters Pay provides us with an immediate way to respond to every climate disaster.

It provides a tangible action to take in response to events, driving a narrative about who is to blame.





QUESTIONS

How is this an environmental justice policy?

Low-income and BIPOC communities bear the brunt of climate impacts: they're paying the costs, while polluters profit.

The climate superfund proposals direct 35-40% of the funding raised to environmental justice communities. There are also opportunities to make more targeted investments.

QUESTIONS

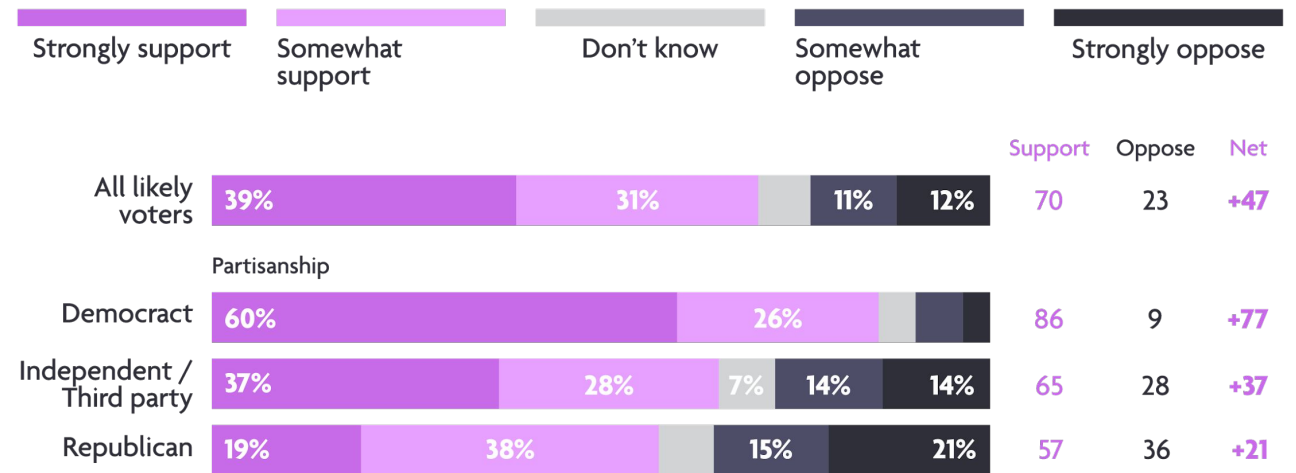
Do people like this idea?

Yes!

“Make Polluters Pay” is one of our best testing messages against Big Oil. 70% of Americans want the fossil fuel industry to pay for damages. And it allows us to play offense on everything from gas prices to climate impacts.

70% of likely voters support making fossil fuel companies pay for the harms caused by climate change

Would you support or oppose making polluters pay for climate damages?



October 20-21, 2023 survey of 1,222 likely voters

Data for Progress, Nov. 2023

The Growing Climate Superfund Campaign

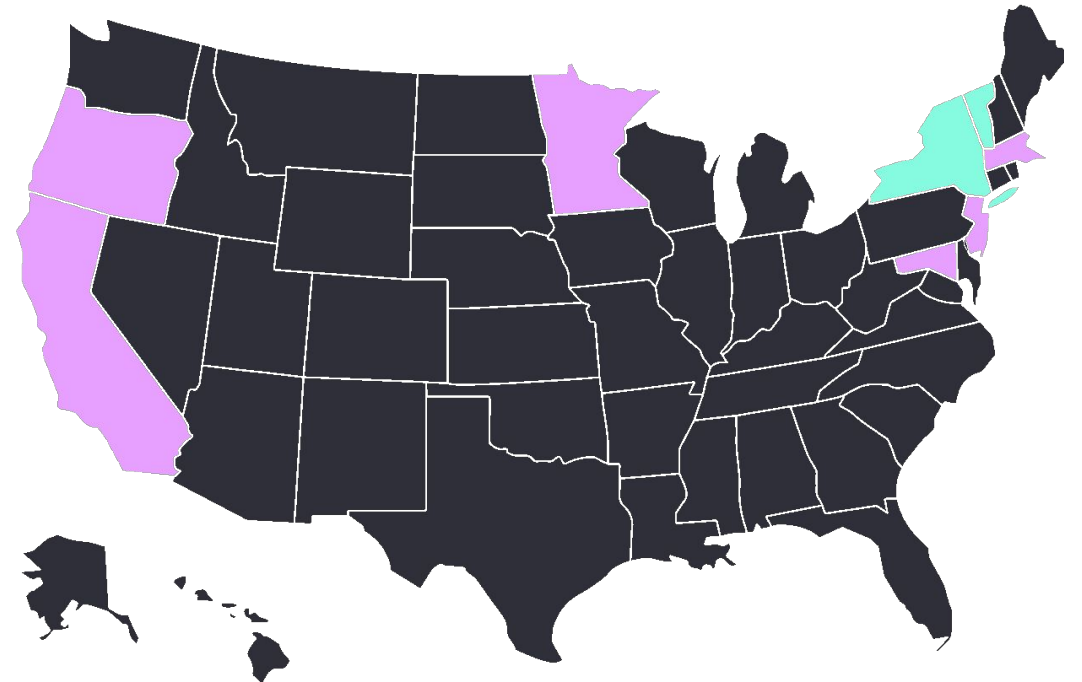
CAMPAIGN

Several States Are Currently Pursuing Climate Superfund Legislation

Vermont & New York:

Introducing next session: Maryland, Massachusetts, California, Minnesota, New Jersey, Oregon

Considering: Virginia?, DC?, Rhode Island?, Washington?





Senator Chris Van Hollen

@ChrisVanHollen

The concept behind my Polluters Pay Climate Fund proposal is simple: you break it, you pay to fix it.

As @RepRaskin & I discussed yesterday, the big polluters who are driving the climate crisis—while making huge profits—should have to help foot the bill to clean up their mess



CAMPAIGN

Congress

In September, Senator Van Hollen and Representatives Nadler and Chu introduced the Polluters Pay Climate Fund Legislation that charges \$1 trillion to the fossil fuel industry for their contribution to the climate crisis.

This money goes towards a wide range of programs to counter the climate crisis including disaster response, resilience planning, and Green New Deal programs.

[More info here.](#)

CLIMATE SUPERFUND BILLS

**MAKE
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QUESTIONS

How does this fit in with other strategies?

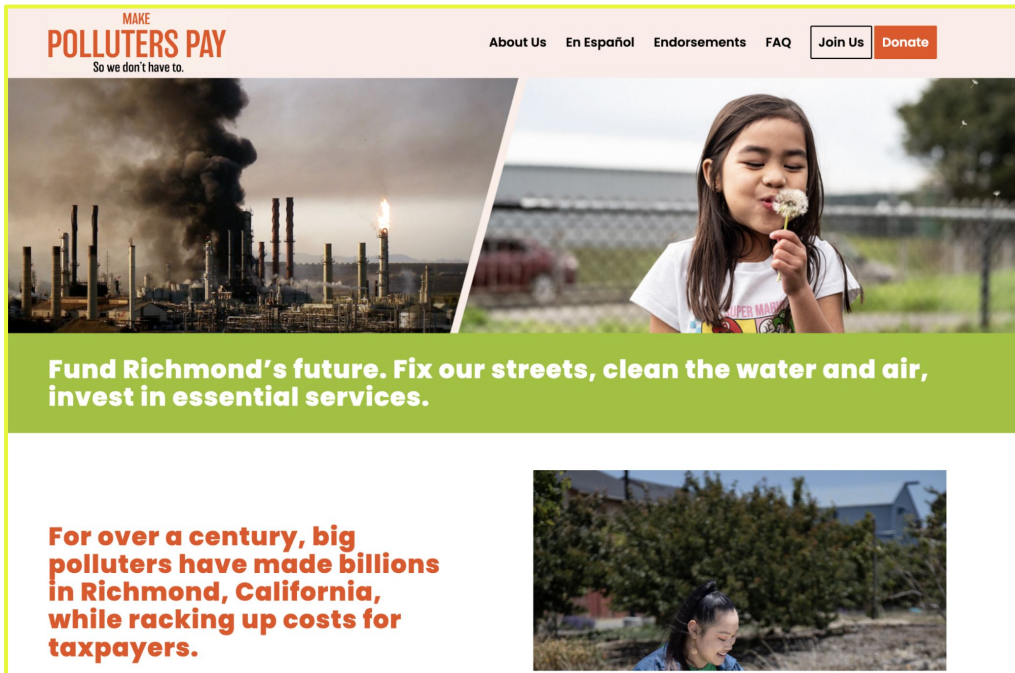
Climate Superfund fits well with other strategies to Make Polluters Pay, like a windfall profits tax, price gouging penalties, ending fossil fuel subsidies, stricter pollution regulations, and more. It also helps stigmatize and regulate the industry so it becomes harder for new permits to get approved for new oil and gas projects.

It's a key part of how we can play offense against Big Oil.

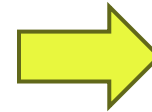


Make Polluters Pay Campaigns Work!

Richmond, CA Make Polluters Pay Campaign website



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Make Polluters Pay campaign website. At the top left, the logo reads "MAKE POLLUTERS PAY" with the tagline "So we don't have to." To the right of the logo are navigation links: "About Us", "En Español", "Endorsements", "FAQ", "Join Us", and a red "Donate" button. Below the navigation is a large banner image split into two parts: the left side shows an industrial refinery with thick black smoke billowing from the stacks, and the right side shows a young girl with long dark hair blowing a dandelion seed. Below the banner is a green bar with white text: "Fund Richmond's future. Fix our streets, clean the water and air, invest in essential services." Below this is a white box with red text: "For over a century, big polluters have made billions in Richmond, California, while racking up costs for taxpayers." To the right of this text is a small image of a woman looking down at something in her hands.



The news article snippet is titled "CALIFORNIA California city's \$550m deal with Chevron could be a national model for environmentalists". Below the title is a sub-headline: "California environmentalists have a new playbook for beating Big Oil." Below the text is a large image of an industrial refinery at dusk or dawn, with smoke rising from the stacks and a flare emitting a flame.

CAMPAIGN

Building a National Movement

We're in the process of building out a national organizing network and strategy where people could plug in anywhere.

We're going to expanding our work over the coming months and want you to join us!

IG [@polluterspay](#)
Tik Tok [@stopbigoil](#)
X [@stopbigoil](#)

CLIMATE SUPERFUND BILLS



About Us

We're building a **nationwide movement to make polluters pay** for the damage they're inflicting on our climate and communities.

Our goal is to build a groundswell of public support for lawsuits, legislation, and other **efforts to hold Big Oil accountable**.

It isn't fair that Big Oil companies continue to rake in **record profits while we pay the price** for their pollution and lies. Join us and help make polluters pay!

[READ MORE](#)



CAMPAIGN

How you can help

Help us pass climate superfund bills in Vermont, California and New York this summer

Start thinking about introducing a bill in your state

Support the launch of the Make Polluters Pay agenda in Congress

Call on President Biden to ask the Department of Justice to investigate Big Oil:
tinyurl.com/TellDOJtoInvestigateBigOil

Get involved in the coalition! (join our [list](#)).



QUESTIONS?

Thank you.

Let's make polluters pay!

MAKE

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PAY