



Medford City Council  
Medford, Massachusetts

**MEETING DATE**

April 2, 2024

**SPONSORED BY**

Kit Collins, Council Vice President

**AGENDA ITEM**

**24-064** - Resolution to Support State "Make Polluters Pay" Legislation

**FULL TEXT AND DESCRIPTION**

Whereas, this legislative session, bill H.872/S.481, "An Act establishing a climate change superfund and promoting polluter responsibility," also known as the "Make Polluters Pay" Bill, was filed; and

Whereas, if passed, this bill would establish a climate change superfund into which the largest oil and gas companies would pay \$75 billion over 25 years, with each company's share proportional to their contribution to global greenhouse gas emissions between 2000 and 2018; and

Whereas, oil and gas companies bear the responsibility for exacerbating the climate crisis, and have consistently misrepresented the destructive impacts of fossil fuel combustion on the global climate; and

Whereas, climate change caused by global warming poses many serious threats to the City of Medford and its residents, including extreme heat, flooding, poor air quality, and other extreme weather, which are already impacting the Medford community; and

Whereas, to adequately fund necessary climate adaptation and resilience projects, Medford requires funding at a scale beyond the reasonable constraints of the City's operating budget, and the passage of the proposed "Make Polluters Pay" legislation in the State House would provide the means for Medford and other cities like it to adapt to climate impacts more adequately, equitably and meaningfully; and

Whereas, the proposed legislation would mandate that 40% of the monies raised be allocated to projects benefiting environmental justice communities, encourage utilization of apprenticeship work programs, and encourage adherence to prevailing wage laws; and

Whereas, this session the "Make Polluters Pay" Bill was given a study order by the Joint Committee on the Environment and Natural Resources, but will be re-introduced in the next legislative session; and

Whereas, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts currently does not have a plan to adequately, equitably

and meaningfully fund necessary resilience and adaptation projects in affected communities like Medford; now, therefore:

Be it Resolved that the Medford City Council expresses its support of H.872/S.481, “An Act establishing a climate change superfund and promoting polluter responsibility;” to build polluter accountability and fund climate resilience.

Be it Further Resolved that the City Clerk forward a copy of this resolution to the Medford legislative delegation as well as the House Speaker, Senate President, and the Office of the Governor.

## RECOMMENDATION

## FISCAL IMPACT

## ATTACHMENTS

None