

Submitter: Nancy Ahnert

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1187

."Polluter pays" is a core principle of environmental law. It reflects basic fairness.

"You break it, you buy it" is a rule we all know.

Presently, Oregon taxpayers must pay all of the costs of climate change, even though fossil fuel companies make billions in profits. Fossil fuel companies should finally start to pay their part of the costs. They have caused so much climate damage and yet have tried to avoid paying their share. Impacts like increased heat and drought were foreseen by the fossil fuel industry but hidden by them from public view for decades. By requiring only very large fossil fuel companies to pay their fair share of past damages from climate change during 1995-2024, the bill will save Oregon taxpayer dollars. This bill will also provide much needed funds to finance climate change adaptation and resilience projects within the state.

I urge you to pass SB 1187.

Thank you.