

Submitter: Cindy Bethell

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1187

Testimony in Support of SB 1187 – Oregon Climate Superfund Bill

Cindy Bethell

Third Act Oregon

April 7, 2025

Chair Pham, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Cindy Bethell, I am with Third Act Oregon and am testifying in support of SB 1187, the Oregon Climate Superfund Bill. This is a taxpayer relief bill that ensures the fossil fuel industry—not Oregon families—pays for the costs of climate-related wreckage.

Oregon communities are already facing the financial burden of wildfires, extreme heat, flooding and lower crop yields, while public agencies and taxpayers shoulder the cost of billions in response, recovery and mitigation. SB 1184 establishes a fair but partial cost-recovery mechanism, ensuring that those responsible for the pollution driving climate change contribute to the solutions. And this bill assures that industry costs cannot be passed on, protecting taxpayers.

This bill is not about new taxes or regulations—it's about fairness and fiscal responsibility. Without it, the costs of climate disasters will continue to fall on state and local budgets, forcing Oregonians to pay for damages they did not create. The Hurricane in North Carolina last year is expected to cost \$60 billion and payments from FEMA have been slow. Oregon must take steps to protect itself.

I urge you to support SB 1164 to protect taxpayers, strengthen Oregon's ability to respond to climate disasters, and hold accountable those who profit from pollution. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Cindy Bethell

Third Act Oregon