

Submitter: Martin Desmond
On Behalf Of: Citizens for a Better Lincoln County
Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1187

I recognize that there are a number of Oregonians who are climate deniers. These people will always deny the seriousness of climate change because they are primarily motivated by their belief system. However, the social and economic costs from extreme weather events are staggering. In 2024, a record-breaking wildfire season burned 1.9 million acres and cost the state of Oregon taxpayers \$350 million to suppress. We had a similarly destructive wildfire season in 2020 in which Oregon Cascade towns such as Mill City, Detroit, and Blue River were destroyed.

This bill addresses the issue of forcing the large oil and gas companies who have been denying the impacts of greenhouse gases to pay for what they knew was true.