

Submitter: Helena Birecki

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1187

Dear Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Brock Smith, and members of the Committee:

My name is Helena Birecki and I am a resident of Oregon and care deeply about health, environmental justice, and a livable future. I strongly support SB 1187. We need a climate superfund to deal with the multiple climate-change-driven issues we're facing.

The fossil fuel companies have known for over 50 years that burning their products causes climate change* and they have been using that knowledge to safeguard their own assets while misleading the public. They should pay for the damage they have knowingly caused.

The scariest thing that I have ever heard was from a wild-land fire chief who said that it doesn't cool down at night anymore; We used to be able to get the fires under control during the day and get some rest at night; Now it's non-stop and keeps growing.

That's climate change: increased greenhouse gases in the atmosphere is like a blanket that keeps getting thicker and preventing the heat from escaping.

Similarly, you can look at the total amount of rain or snow that comes down, but that's only a small part of the story.

How and when do those reserves melt and flow out to the ocean? If they melt too fast because of a sudden hot spell instead of a gradual spring, floods are likely. If the snow melts too early, it reduces summer water availability in the summer. Also, much more water evaporates from plants and from when average day and night-time temperatures rise, increasing drought conditions. That's climate change challenging our ability to grow food and increasing fire risk.

All the people who died during the 2021 heat dome and last year's heat wave? That's climate change.

Brought to you by the fossil fuel companies.

We need funding and plans to get through this. SB 1187 tasks the right state agencies to work in collaboration to implement resilience, adaptation, and mitigation support. It charges the parties most responsible for the problem. We need funding for water infrastructure, defensible space, air filters and heat pumps for higher

efficiency heating and needed cooling in the summers.

Please pass SB 1187.

Sincerely,
Helena Birecki

* https://www.budget.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/fossil_fuel_report1.pdf