

Submitter: D Torres  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1187  
Chair & Committee Members,

I STRONGLY OPPOSE SB 1187.

The bill grants the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) the authority to issue cost recovery demand notices to entities deemed responsible for climate-related costs. This presents a significant risk of unpredictable financial liability for businesses, especially smaller ones, and could create an unstable economic environment.

The bill proposes that the Department of Land Conservation and Development lead the interagency team and conduct an assessment of the costs of greenhouse gas emissions. However, the framework for determining the specific costs and who is held accountable is left vague and undefined. Without clear guidelines, businesses could face a situation where they are required to pay substantial costs without a transparent or equitable process for determining what constitutes their "share" of climate change costs.

This lack of clarity creates a risk of arbitrary decisions and potentially leads to an uneven application of the law. It may also create an atmosphere where businesses are forced to navigate a complicated and opaque regulatory system, ultimately resulting in legal challenges and delays in addressing real climate issues.

Instead of focusing on a cost recovery program, Oregon should prioritize policies that support innovation and encourage positive environmental change, such as investment in clean energy infrastructure, incentives for businesses to reduce their carbon footprints, and promoting policies that drive long-term sustainability. This bill focuses heavily on penalties for entities rather than providing constructive mechanisms for businesses to reduce emissions and improve their environmental practices.

By creating a punitive system, this bill misses an opportunity to develop a collaborative, forward-thinking strategy that engages businesses, communities, and individuals in reducing the impacts of climate change through shared goals and incentives, rather than solely relying on financial penalties.

Rather than penalizing businesses, we should focus on encouraging innovation, providing clear incentives for sustainable practices, and investing in the technologies

that will drive the state's environmental future. I urge the committee to reconsider this approach and explore more effective, balanced solutions to tackle climate change.

The legislator authoring this bill and the legislators in support of penalizing businesses rather than creating incentives in this state should be ashamed of themselves. You are here to REPRESENT the people, NOT RULE OVER the people and businesses. So wonder businesses are exiting Oregon. This state is becoming very restrictive and not welcoming to US Citizens or businesses. We need better leadership at the helm. Oregonians deserve better representation.