

Submitter: Robin Lanehurst

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1187

Dear Co-chair Helm, Co-chair Owens, and members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment,

I am writing to ask that you please support SB 1187 to make polluting industries pay for the impacts of climate change—and prevent those costs from falling on Oregon individuals and communities. Oregonians are already paying for the impacts of climate change with our dollars, our health, and our future. We are already seeing impacts such as intensified wildfires, extreme heat, drought, floods, and ice storms. I moved my family to Oregon because this is a state that stands up for its people against big business and billionaires who just want to fill their coffers - let's keep standing for that.

These climate-fueled disasters are already costing our state—and therefore Oregon taxpayers—a lot of money. In 2024, we watched a record-breaking wildfire season burn 1.9 million acres that cost \$350 million. Wildfire smoke does untold damage to the health of Oregonians across the state and is estimated to cost \$1 billion to Oregon's GDP during heavy smoke years. We could use that money for public education, the arts, and healthcare - things that actually benefit the people of the state of Oregon.

Polluting industries created these climate impacts by producing and burning fossil fuels. It is not fair or right that they continue to profit while further causing climate destruction. It's time for polluting industries to pay for the mess they've caused.

SB 1187 would let state agencies assess damages and create climate resilience plans funded by polluting industries. The money could go toward much-needed support for firefighters and communities dealing with more frequent and more deadly wildfire seasons. These funds could also be provided to Oregonians families who experience damages or losses from wildfires, heat domes or ice storms. We can also use this money to support environmental justice communities in building resilience ahead of future climate disasters.

Now is the time to hold polluters accountable and create a system that requires them to pay for their own mess. Don't let these costs fall on Oregon's families. Make polluters pay by passing SB 1187.

Sincerely,

Robin Lanehurst, M.Ed.