

Submitter: Teresa Smith-Dixon  
On Behalf Of: SB1187  
Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1187

Dear Chair Sollman, Vice Chair Brock Smith, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to ask for your support on SB 1187: Make Polluters Pay. This bill has a public hearing in the Senate Energy and Environment Committee on Monday, April 7th with a possible work session scheduled for Wednesday, April 9.

This bill is important to me because I live in rural NE Oregon and we suffer the danger, fear and health related issues with wildfire each year. I am especially concerned about my neighbors who cannot protect themselves from extreme heat and smoke each year while working out of doors on farms and forest related employment. Much of our population in the Grande Ronde Valley does not have air conditioning to cool their homes because we have always had the benefit of cooler nights to allow us to at least sleep. With more heat waves, the nights do not necessarily get cooler. When the air quality is poor and unhealthy, we are unable to open windows to cool our homes at night. Personally, my quality of life and health (I now have asthma) have diminished significantly since 1990, when I moved to La Grande. I am very concerned about the younger people you have been subjected to this environmental change throughout their lives.

Oregon's Polluter Pays bill would require large fossil fuel firms to pay compensation for past climate change damages. It makes sense to have those responsible for creating pollution, to also have an obligation to mitigate the damage to the environment. The approach is analogous to other, well-established federal and state programs that impose strict liability for cleaning up past pollution. Comparable Climate Superfund bills have been enacted in Vermont and New York and are being considered in several other US states.

For these reasons, I urge your support for SB 1187. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Teresa Smith-Dixon

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