

Submitter: Sarah Kester

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1187

I write in strong support of SB 1187, the Climate Superfund Cost Recovery Program.

For too long, the companies most responsible for the climate crisis have passed the cost of their pollution onto the public — our communities, our children, our firefighters, our farmers, our healthcare system, and our tax dollars. SB 1187 finally changes that.

This bill is fair. It directs the state to calculate the real costs Oregon has incurred from climate damages — including wildfires, extreme heat, smoke, flooding, drought, infrastructure collapse, and worsening public health — and sends the bill to the fossil fuel corporations whose emissions caused this damage. If you break something, you pay to fix it. That's not radical — it's common sense.

This bill is grounded in science. The climate crisis is not hypothetical. It is measurable, traceable, and increasingly devastating. The companies that have profited most from climate pollution knew about the harm decades ago. They chose to deceive the public and block action, and now Oregonians are living with the consequences.

I've noticed that much of the opposition to this bill comes from those who deny the reality of climate change altogether. That's not just scientifically indefensible — it's economically reckless. Ignoring the costs won't make them go away. Without accountability, those costs will keep growing, and we'll be stuck footing the bill again and again. SB 1187 is an urgently needed step to protect Oregon taxpayers and communities from shouldering the burden alone.

This bill is also forward-thinking. It doesn't just recover damages — it helps fund the adaptation work we urgently need to keep communities safe in a warming world. Every dollar recovered through this program means more resources for wildfire resilience, clean water infrastructure, emergency response systems, and support for vulnerable communities.

I urge you to pass SB 1187 without delay. Oregon must lead — not just in acknowledging the climate crisis, but in demanding accountability for it.

Thank you for your time and leadership.

Sincerely,

Sarah Kester
Keizer, Oregon