

Dear Chair Pham, Vice-Chair Anderson, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of SB 1187: Make Polluters Pay.

My name is Kathryn Young, and I am a resident of Ashland, OR, and a student at Southern Oregon University. People like you and I are constantly badgered about what we as individuals can do to protect our planet. Younger people especially have had climate anxiety instilled in them their entire lives, forced to live with the realities of our changing world looming over our heads. We're told to use public transportation, to get solar panels, to stop using single-use plastics, and most importantly, that we're never doing enough. No matter what decisions an individual makes, we will always be told that we could - and should - be doing more, or that we should feel guilty for not doing enough to save our planet. Why are our corporations not being held to the same standard as us individuals?

Individuals have been doing their part to act environmentally consciously, to the best of their ability, for years. It's time that corporations follow suit. [The Carbon Majors Launch Report](#) in 2024 found that the 20 largest carbon emitters worldwide made up 62.5% of all carbon emissions between 2016 and 2024. The top 50 carbon emitters were responsible for 78.3% of all carbon emissions worldwide. Individuals are not the problem, corporations are.

SB 1187 would finally quantify the costs of pollution, and hold corporations accountable for their contributions to climate change. Instead of being left unchecked and allowed to continue harming our planet and threatening our communities, this Act will incentivize corporations to do their part in minimizing our emissions. Furthermore, SB 1187 will fulfill a need in our communities, helping families who have been affected by climate-related disasters, like wildfire, recover from disasters that although they are suffering from, they did not cause.

As you consider SB 1187, please remember that we are at a critical moment in our changing world, and that you have the power to hold corporations accountable for their actions. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Young