

Submitter: Leah Jakusovszky

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1187

Dear Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Brock Smith, and members of the Committee:

My name is Leah and I'm a member of Climate Reality Project Portland Chapter who cares about the health of our environment. I am writing to ask you to support SB 1187 which creates a Climate Superfund— paid for by the biggest polluters— to help Oregonians adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change.

Oregon taxpayers can't keep paying for the costs of climate change while fossil fuel companies reap billions of dollars in profit. According to the 2024 Joint Staff Report of the United States House Committee on Oversight and Accountability, the major fossil fuel companies have known since the 1960s that burning fossil fuels causes climate change, and “ then worked for decades to undermine public understanding of this fact and to deny the underlying science.” Fossil fuel companies have knowingly caused this problem. They should pay their fair share.

There will be an increasing need to rebuild after natural disasters in the coming years. We are already seeing worsening storm and fire seasons. Insurance companies are raising rates and leaving markets; additionally, states are having a harder time accessing FEMA funds to rebuild. To ensure affected Oregonians' needs are met, we will need new funding sources. Who better to pay the bill than the highly profitable fossil fuel companies that contribute to these disasters?

This bill is carefully designed: It would require the fossil fuel firms who are most responsible for the problem to pay a share of past damages arising from climate change during 1995-2024, a period of time over which the amounts of fossil fuels extracted and sold by the large companies have been reliably tracked. From this, it's documented how much greenhouse gas each company is responsible for during that time period. Experts in Oregon agencies working with climate and environmental scientists can make reliable estimates of financial damages from climate change from 1995-2024, and large fossil fuel interests would be required to pay only in proportion to their documented negative impact.

I am happy that the bill breaks down silos between different government agencies so that the Climate Superfund can be deployed efficiently and effectively for climate change adaptation, resilience, and repair projects within the state. The joint expertise of Oregon departments of Emergency Management, Land Conservation and Development, Agriculture, and Environmental Quality, the Oregon Health Authority and the State Fire Marshall will develop and implement needed projects across the

state: climate resilience plans that support healthy lives and livelihoods by addressing issues affecting communities urban and rural, desert and coastal, and infrastructure that is human-built and natural (such as wetlands and riparian areas).

The bill importantly dedicates 40% of the funds collected to frontline communities most exposed to climate damages, and 30% of funds specifically to making Oregon more resilient to wildfires.

Please support Oregonians and climate justice by supporting SB 1187.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Leah B. Jakusovszky