

Submitter: Rand Schenck  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1187  
To: Chair Sollman and Committee Members  
From: Rand Schenck  
Date: April 4, 2025  
Subject: SB 1187

Please support SB 1187 the Make Climate Polluters Pay Act. Forty-five years ago the original Superfund Act was passed and signed into law by President Carter. This bill ensured that big companies that left toxic waste – sometimes in places that were later developed into homesites – were held accountable for the cleanup costs of those sites. Many years ago as part of my graduate program I wrote a paper on Love Canal, which in many ways was the impetus for the Superfund Act as people who lived above that toxic waste site experienced a whole host of health problems, especially significantly increased rates of cancer.

For many decades the largest fossil fuel companies have known that the products they are burning are causing our planet to warm and to experience increased frequency and severity of wildfires, increased droughts, and increased flooding. These harms to our planet are causing terrible harms to many of the citizens of our state. The heat dome a few years ago led to many deaths. Wildfires in the state have led to many deaths directly and as a result of smoke along with the loss of thousands of homes. Now the citizens are entirely bearing the costs of these harms. That is not right. The largest fossil fuel companies need to be held accountable and pay their fair share.

We face an extraordinary amount of work ahead in helping Oregon be more resilient in the face of these harms to our state. Chemical companies that left toxic waste had to pay for the many harms resulting from their egregious behavior. Fossil fuel companies must also be forced to pay as well for the incalculable harms resulting from their pollution. And to help us increase our climate resilience.

Sincerely,

Rand Schenck  
Portland, Oregon