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On Behalf of the 350 Salem Oregon  
To the Senate Committee On Energy and Environment  
Hearing of April 7, 2025

**Topic: SB 1187**

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

**350 Salem Oregon supports SB 1187**

350 Salem is a grassroots volunteer organization advocating for a just transition to a renewable energy economy and for community-based resilience in response to the climate emergency.

I worked for 37 years as a senior economist/policy analyst for Oregon Dept. of Energy and as staff to the Public Utility Commission. My work focused on energy efficiency, renewable generation, the science of climate change and ways to reduce fossil fuel emissions. I received a Ph.D. in Natural Resource and Utility Economics from John Hopkins U. in 1978. I'm currently one of two co-coordinators of 350 Salem Oregon.

I have followed the science of climate change closely from 1990 to today. I can confidently say that climate change from fossil fuels has increased the frequency and intensity of floods, droughts, heatwaves, windstorms, and wildfires in Oregon. Fossil fuel companies knew about climate change and these kinds of effects well before 1995.

**The collection and distribution of money from fossil fuel companies is very doable and appropriate as was the case with tobacco companies.** Both knew they were selling a deadly product and hired “scientists” and public relations people to obscure the truth. See: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Merchants\\_of\\_Doubt](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Merchants_of_Doubt) by Naomi Oreske and Erik M. Conway (2010). In many cases the same “scientists” were hired to carry the message of doubt for both tobacco and fossil fuels companies. **When your neighbor damages your property or health, you are entitled to compensation. The law is on our side.**

**Attribution Science**

According to “Scientific American” (June 2023) “A decade ago the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change said attribution science was not yet ‘fit for purpose.’ In contrast, **a 2021 IPCC report called [climate] attribution science ‘robust.’**” IPCC, established in

1988, is the premiere worldwide organization for assessing climate change sciences. Attribution science has continued to improve in the four years since the IPCC 2021 report.

Experts in Oregon agencies and consultants have the capacity to provide evidence-based estimates of the cost of Oregon's climate damages from the largest fossil-fuel companies for 1995 through 2024.

We know each fossil fuel company's responsibility for greenhouse gas emissions based on wholesale sales. **The data and evidence is there to survive court challenges.**

### **Basically Zero Effect on Oregon Fossil Fuel Prices**

The structure of collecting and disbursing money in SB 1187 is well designed. The money comes only from the roughly 100 largest fossil fuel companies that sold oil, gas and coal in Oregon. *"Fossil fuel business" means a business engaged in the extraction of fossil fuels or the refining of petroleum products.* Retail natural gas distribution utilities would not be covered. If one of their suppliers were covered, they can switch to a smaller supplier that is not covered.

Natural gas, gasoline and diesel prices in Oregon will not be affected in any noticeable way because the **money collected from the largest oil companies will be spread over their worldwide sales.**

**The process and priorities to disperse funds are well designed to fund projects throughout the state.** Netting substantial funds from this effort is not guaranteed but the state would be **shirking its duty to not pursue this effort.** Efforts in other states are have survived initial court challenges.

There are **only three ways to pay** for the damages in Oregon hat fossil fuel companies have caused:

1. Families, businesses and local governments can pay,
2. The state can raise taxes to pay **or**
3. **The fossil fuel companies that knew the damage their products were causing can pay.**

**Alternative #3 is the practical and the morally appropriate choice.**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.