

Submitter: Jessica Mardock

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,

I am writing to ask for your support on SB 1187: Make Polluters Pay. This bill has a public hearing in the Senate Energy and Environment Committee on Monday, April 7th with a possible work session scheduled for Wednesday, April 9.

This bill is important to me because I live in Bend, where fires and smoke have become more of an every year reality that is impacting the health and wellbeing of me and my small children.

When we moved to Bend, there was significantly less smoke. Now, we have to leave our home part of the summer just so our kids can play outside without breathing in nasty smoke from climate change. This past year we had to request that our daughter stay inside for recess because the smoke continued into September. Climate change is real and it is impacting our health and livelihood, along with how we enjoy our lovely State of Oregon.

Oregon's Polluter Pays bill should help reduce existing and future effects of pollution on climate change as it would require large fossil fuel firms to pay compensation for past climate change damages and make them think about the pollution they put into the environment going forward. It is based on the principle that those responsible for creating pollution have a moral obligation to make amends. The approach is analogous to other, well-established federal and state programs that impose strict liability for cleaning up past pollution. Comparable Climate Superfund bills have been enacted in Vermont and New York and are being considered in several other US states.

For these reasons, I urge your support for SB 1187!