

Submitter: William Heerd

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 want to assure that future generations will have the knowledge, tools and resources to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change. The climate changes that have occurred and will continue to worsen without climate change mitigation are directly attributable to the burning of fossil fuels and thus carbon dioxide emissions. The fossil fuel companies created the emissions that are causing the warming of our climate they should pay for the mitigation costs.

As an Oregon citizen, living in Milwaukie, I have personally experienced the 2020 Labor Day wildfires, most expensive in Oregon history, the ice storm of 2021, and the heat dome of the same year. During each of these extreme weather events my wife and I were virtually trapped in our home. We avoided the polluting smoke from the wildfires for a week to maintain our health. The lack of power due to downed power lines from the ice storm for 12 days we survived cooking on our camp stove. During the extreme heat from the heat dome in June of 2021 we sequestered ourselves in our home for a week. I would wear a wet t-shirt and hurriedly water the drying plants to keep them alive.

Without action to mitigate climate change these extreme weather events will become more extreme, more frequent and more costly. This has been proven by the climate science resources from the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change UNIPCC, the International Energy Agency IEA as well as other reputable sources. As a Climate Ambassador volunteer for Climate Interactive I have developed future climate scenarios using the EN-ROADS Climate Solutions Simulator. Various climate mitigation policies, actions and strategies can be investigated to determine the most effective measures to take. In all cases, we must mitigate the carbon dioxide emissions from the burning of fossil fuels. Please refer to the attachment for further information.

Oregon's Polluter Pays bill would require large fossil fuel firms to pay compensation for past climate change damages. 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. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely, William Heerdt wmheerd@gmail.com

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