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On Behalf Of: SB 1187
Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1187

I enthusiastically support SB 1187 and the Climate Superfund Cost Recovery Program. Oregon certainly should not be responsible for the costs of wildfires, drought, and tree death happening in Oregon due to fossil fuel emissions. The fossil fuel companies must pay for the harm they are causing by decades of fossil fuel development. In this moment when we all KNOW that fossil fuels are killing our planet, and the Big Oil/Gas companies continue to develop and propagate more fossil fuel dependence, we must hold them accountable for not being part of the solution! Making them pay into recovery funds hits them in their profit margins and gets their attention. I am proud of Oregon for being one of the first states to pursue this strategy and find desperately needed financial resources for the State to address future harm.

While fossil fuels are a major factor in harming our environment, we have equally pressing issues in the form of polluted surface and ground water, continued sacrifice of life sustaining ecosystems in favor of more housing development, and continued expansion of the human footprint. We need to expand this polluter pays model to cover the water, air and ecosystems of Oregon as well. It is my hope that passing the Right to a Healthy Environment constitutional amendment (SJR 28-1) will give Oregon's government the fortitude to develop a polluter pays model for the rest of Oregon's natural resources.

Our future depends on humans recognizing we are over-populating and over-consuming our natural resources and we need to shift to less consumption, smaller families and more local economies. Today, the collective human footprint is consuming 1.75 planet Earths of regenerative natural resources, which means today we are living beyond what the Earth can regenerate by 75% of one Earth. (See: <https://overshoot.footprintnetwork.org/how-many-earths-or-countries-do-we-need/>) This is living on depletion! We need to recognize that climate change is not our only issue that threatens the future of our children and future generations.

State government is part of the solution and SB1187 is a necessary step to address Oregon's impact from climate change. But until we all recognize that the solution comes from each of us: to divest our lives from fossil fuels, live much lower consumptive lifestyles, and protect our precious forests, watersheds, deserts, and Oregon's ecosystems, we will still face a future with a planet that can not sustain us. Human growth, due to continued economic growth, must stop and transition to a human population living in balance with the Earth.