

Submitter: Ian Carrick

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,

Growing up in Bend in the 90's, I used to see snowpack stacked high that most cars on the sides of Santiam pass. I felt so small. I remember long summers with no smoke. There were fires - on actually nipped at the property I grew up on when I was a toddler. But it wasn't the norm. People didn't plan their summer around "smoke season." These days I am a music teacher at a few public schools here in Bend. Last summer I had a conversation with some kids - they felt so sad, annoyed, frustrated by the smoke. They were at "summer camp" but stuck inside with the air filter running all day. Some of them have not known a summer without smoke. I expressed my grief to them. "This is hard," I said. "It didn't used to be like this." And then we carried on doing the best we could to stay inside and show those kids a meaningful camp experience.

So today I am writing to ask for your support on SB 1187. 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. There are many opposing the bill who believe climate change is a hoax. My experience in Bend shows otherwise. Summers are hotter and drier than before - on average.

This bill is a moral light in a (federal) political climate filled with back-handed, closed-door, disappointing decisions. Large corporations, if we treat them as people in this country, should be held responsible for their actions. Have a fund for wildfire costs, heavily impacted communities (tribal and otherwise) and general climate mitigation efforts is not a new idea. New York and Vermont are leaders here. People need good news! This would be that. And it would provide funds for damages that are already underway. I believe the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development would make wise choices about where these funds would go. And wisdom is a rare commodity in this bleeding world.

So, please, for the sake of the children, their future, their sense of hope, please push this bill forward and let's make Oregon a leader in the fight for a moral conscience and ecological wisdom.

Thanks for your dedication,

Ian Carrick