

Submitter: Darlene Chirman  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1187

Darlene

Chirman Portland, Oregon  
To the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

Testimony Topic: SB 1187

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

I am submitting testimony in support of SB 1187, also known as the “Make Polluters Pay Act”, which would establish a Climate Superfund Cost Recovery Program as an Oregon interagency response to the effects of climate change.

The covered period is January 1995 to December 31, 2024. The Department of Land and Conservation and Development would be the lead, working with other state agencies by agreement, to determine which fossil fuel companies must pay into the fund, based on the sale of fossil fuels in Oregon during the covered period, and whose global activities included extraction and or refining of petroleum products during that period. This would cover the largest emitters, probably about 100 entities that did business in Oregon, and based on their share of global emissions over this 30-year period.

The funds collected would be used for climate disaster adaptation and resilience, including wildfire resilience, disaster preparedness, upgrades to transportation and electric power grids. The bill directs 30% of revenue to make Oregon more resilient to wildfires. In addition, 40% of revenues would be directed to frontline communities most affected by climate impacts.

Vermont and New York have passed similar legislation in 2024, and have passed the first legal hurdles. Four other states are considering similar proposals.

I urge you to support SB 1187 and move the bill forward.

Thank you, Darlene Chirman