

Dear Chair Janeen Sollman, Vice Chair David Brock Smith, and Members of the Committee,

I write in full support of SB 1187 which seeks to establish the Climate Superfund Cost Recovery Program to make Fossil Fuel companies responsible for the effects of climate change in Oregon. The core of SB 1187 is neither new nor revolutionary: the federal Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CLERCLA) of 1980 has held industries responsible for the cleanup of their pollution for over 40 years. As a former resident of New Jersey, I personally witnessed the effectiveness of CLERCLA when a local industrial site polluted with toxic effluent was decontaminated and turned into parkland. Passage of SB 1187 would give a similar benefit to Oregonians by making responsible Fossil Fuel corporations pay for the environment damage they have caused in our state. If SB 1187 does not become law, Oregon taxpayers will ultimately have to foot the bill for damage caused by wildfires, heat domes, draughts, and other extreme weather events exacerbated by climate change. SB 1187 will also hold Fossil Fuel corporations accountable to help fund wildfire prevention, emergency centers, and infrastructure strengthening to resist future climate disasters. Fossil Fuel corporations reap huge profits (about 172 billion dollars in the US alone in 2023), so it's only fair that they pay for the damage they have caused (and will cause in the future) through climate change.

Sincerely,

Gordon Kelly