

Submitter: Annica Maxfield

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1187

My name is Annica Maxfield, and I serve as the Community Impact Director at Voz Workers' Rights Education Project. In my role, I've led climate resilience efforts including our Emergency Preparedness Cohort, which offers in-depth, hands-on training to a group of day laborers, equipping them to become advocates and educators in disaster preparedness and climate adaptation within their communities. This initiative is just one example of how we're responding to the increasingly urgent climate threats impacting Oregon's most vulnerable workers.

Voz is a worker-led organization that supports a community of over 200 day laborers—many of whom have spent decades performing essential outdoor labor under increasingly hazardous environmental conditions. These workers have endured the escalating effects of climate change firsthand: extreme heat, toxic wildfire smoke, and dangerous air quality that directly impact their health, livelihoods, and safety. Yet because they are immigrants, people of color, and often monolingual Spanish speakers, their voices are systemically excluded from the policy decisions that shape Oregon's response to the climate crisis.

SB 1187 is a crucial step toward justice. It recognizes that those responsible for the climate crisis—polluting industries—should be held accountable for the damage they've caused to our environment and our communities. At Voz, we are preparing workers for a future shaped by climate change through green jobs training, culturally specific disaster preparedness programs, and leadership development that centers their lived experience. This bill aligns with our vision of climate justice: one where the burden of environmental harm is not placed on frontline communities, but instead met with real investment in resilience and recovery. We urge lawmakers to pass SB 1187 and ensure that polluters pay their fair share to protect the people who've borne the brunt of this crisis for far too long.