

Submitter: Ann Turner
On Behalf Of: Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility
Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1187

Good afternoon, Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Smith, and members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment,

My name is Ann Turner. I am a retired physician and a member and co-president of the board of directors of Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility (Oregon PSR). Oregon PSR is a statewide organization of more than 2,000 health professionals and public health advocates working to protect human life from the gravest threats to health and survival.

One of the gravest threats facing human health and survival is the climate crisis. This is why I am testifying today in support of SB 1187.

Big Oil companies were warned about the climate dangers of fossil fuels as early as 1954. Nevertheless, they continued to warm our climate, and the consequences are costly, especially to our health. For example, at least 109 lives were lost in the 2021 heat dome. From an economic standpoint, the Forum on Oregon Climate Economics found that wildfire smoke could cost Oregon households \$450 per smoke day for each day of exposure. (1)

Polluters should pay for the damage they caused. SB 1187 does just that by requiring large fossil fuel companies to pay for past climate change damages. Year after year, Oregon experiences record-breaking events, including heat domes, wildfires and floods. We must act to counter this. SB 1187 will fund vital climate mitigation and adaptation efforts that will make Oregon more resilient to extreme weather events exacerbated by climate change, including wildfires, heatwaves, and ice storms, and their negative health impacts. This bill is especially important for Oregonians at the frontlines of the climate crisis as 40% of the funds will be directed to help these communities.

The cost of inaction is too great. We strongly urge you to pass SB 1187 out of committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Ann Turner, MD
Co-President Board of Directors Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility

(1) <https://news.uoregon.edu/climate-change-cost-report>