



www.RogueClimate.org || PO Box 1980, Phoenix, OR 97535 || 541-301-9204

Coos Bay Office: 243 S. 2nd St. Coos Bay, OR 97420 || 541- 816-0758

Re: Rogue Climate Testimony regarding SB 1187

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

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of SB 1187: Relating to greenhouse gas emissions; prescribing an effective date.

Rogue Climate serves and works alongside Southern Oregon and South Coast communities most impacted by climate change, including low-income, rural, youth, and communities of color, by organizing for clean energy, sustainable jobs, and a healthy environment. We do so through leadership development, political education, and campaigns for policies that benefit our communities.

Fossil fuel companies have known for decades the damage their products cause and they should be held responsible for the harm they cause in our communities. If they don't contribute, Oregonians will continue to foot the bill. The good news is that the funds to support clean-up, adaptation, and resilience are available, with Big Oil making over [\\$172 billion](#) in 2023 alone.

The importance of SB 1187 is highlighted by increasingly devastating wildfires in Oregon. Over 1.9 million acres were burned in Oregon last year - more than ever before in modern history. Rogue Climate has seen firsthand the long-lasting impacts of wildfires on Oregon families in the Rogue Valley, when the Almeda fire destroyed [2,600](#) homes, [disproportionately](#) impacting many in Latine/x communities, where families were already facing economic hardship. The fire also burnt down our office and our team jumped into action to support community members to find housing, meet their basic needs, and to ensure a just recovery. However, many are [still recovering](#) five years later. Since then, community members in towns like [Talent](#) have experienced power outages during 100+ degree days as part of an effort to reduce wildfire risk, but this left people without power during dangerous, extreme temperatures. For people with disabilities, elders and children in our communities, this extreme weather can be deadly, as we saw in the 2020 heat dome.

On the South Coast, community members in Coos and Curry Counties are increasingly experiencing the impacts of climate change through record-breaking hot days, increased wildfire risk, such as the Anvil Fire of 2023, and the threat of flooding and more extreme storms. Ocean-based industries that are the foundation of the South Coast economy like recreation, fishing and shellfishing are feeling the effects of ocean acidification on the critical marine species they rely on. Estuaries continue to be under threat of degradation, which are one of the most important carbon sinks to protect coastal communities from flooding and reduce climate impacts.



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SB 1187 Climate Superfund Cost Recovery Program to help Oregon firefighters and communities adapt to more frequent and intense wildfires, redress the damages Oregonians incurred from climate enhanced weather events and build resilience for the future through wildfire prevention, emergency centers and infrastructure hardening against upcoming climate disasters, like flooding and more intense storms on the South Coast.

Damages from climate change are expensive and almost entirely shouldered by Oregon taxpayers. These costs are only going to go up, while it is becoming increasingly expensive and challenging to acquire insurance. The cost of doing nothing now to prepare for future climate damage is only going to grow. It's time to hold Big Oil responsible - please vote yes in support of SB 1187.

Sincerely,

Jess Grady-Benson, Organizing Director

Zöe Serrano, Legislative Coordinator