



April 7, 2025

Senate Energy and Environment
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem Oregon 97301

Re: SB 1187 - SUPPORT

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

Climate Solutions is a regional nonprofit working to accelerate clean energy solutions to the climate crisis. On behalf of our thousands of members statewide, **we urge you to support SB 1187.**

Oregon has made important progress in recent years to adopt policies and programs that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and invest in solutions to accelerate the transition to clean energy. With strong implementation, these programs will make a meaningful difference for future generations by helping avoid the most catastrophic and irreversible impacts of climate change. But the reality is that Oregon is already grappling with devastating, climate-fueled impacts—destructive wildfires, prolonged drought, and deadly heat events—that are harming communities across the state and placing a growing economic strain on Oregon families, businesses, and local economies.

The destruction caused by recent climate-fueled weather events and natural disasters have price tags in the billions of dollars. The 2025 Oregon Climate Change Research Institute's Seventh Oregon Climate Assessment emphasized that Oregon's economy and gross domestic product (GDP) remain highly impacted by climate change, threatening multiple sectors, industries, and communities across the state.¹ As underscored by OHA's 2023 Climate and Health in Oregon report, these climate hazards disproportionately harm the health and wellbeing of communities of color, Tribal communities, low-income, and other environmental justice communities more than other populations.² These costs are projected to rise dramatically as the climate crisis worsens.

In 2024 alone, climate-fueled wildfires burned nearly 2 million acres and cost Oregon over \$350 million.³ The 2020 Labor Day fires destroyed more than 4,000 homes and businesses, killed 11 people, burned 1.2 million acres, and cost taxpayers over a billion dollars in response, recovery, and infrastructure damage.⁴ The economic ripple effects of smoke-related health issues and lost productivity are estimated to cost

¹ <https://oregonstate.app.box.com/s/ziqc1kisxkup45147phjp526kheugqnb>.

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https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/HEALTHYENVIRONMENTS/CLIMATECHANGE/Documents/le-105251_23.pdf

³ https://www.oregon.gov/gov/Documents/WPAC%20Report_2024.pdf.

⁴ <https://wildfire-auth.oregon.gov/Documents/DMTF%20After%20Action%20Report.pdf>.

Oregon up to \$1 billion in GDP during heavy smoke years.⁵ According to NOAA analysis, the 2023 drought affecting Oregon resulted in an estimated \$14.8 billion in costs and led to 247 documented deaths.⁶ Smoke-filled skies, extreme heat, and burned landscapes harm Oregon's tourism economy that supports over 100,000 jobs and generates billions in revenue for rural and gateway communities.

According to the Forum on Oregon Climate Economics, **the average Oregonian could lose \$12,000 per year in income due to climate-induced economic disruptions.**⁷ The report also highlights potential losses exceeding \$450 million annually in ecosystem services like pollination, water filtration, and flood protection.

These impacts were not unforeseen. The fossil fuel industry understood the harm their products would cause and chose to mislead the public and policymakers for decades. Given the decades of harm and misinformation that polluting industries have already inflicted on the public—not to mention the impacts to come as climate change worsens—it is unconscionable that Oregon taxpayers bear the burden of these climate-fueled costs and economic damages.

SB 1187 provides a fair and necessary remedy. It ensures that major polluters pay their fair share for the damages they helped cause and directs those funds to where they are needed most: wildfire prevention, infrastructure adaptation, and support for environmental justice communities hardest hit by climate disasters. It aligns with a simple and just principle: if you make a mess, you help clean it up.

Thank you for your consideration, and we once again **urge your support on SB 1187.**

Sincerely,

Nora Apter
Oregon Director
Climate Solutions

⁵ <https://oregonstate.app.box.com/s/ziqc1kisxkup45147phjp526kheugqnb>.

⁶ <https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/billions/state-summary/OR>.

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<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/66b3a62bbf13723aab123b5d/t/6719d4ea8e78834f3d956c0b/1729746160697/economic-cost-of-climate-change-oregonians.pdf>.