

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

*I am writing to ask for your support on SB 1187: Make Polluters Pay. This bill has a public hearing in the Senate Energy and Environment Committee on Monday, April 7th with a possible work session scheduled for Wednesday, April 9.*

*This bill is important to me because my family has experienced the heat dome and the extreme winter storms that have wreaked disaster on our neighborhoods. Growing up in the Pacific Northwest, no one had air conditioning but now you could die without it. Before we retired, my husband and I purchased a camper and planned to travel throughout Oregon and see the beautiful sights our state offers. But each year we have to consider a season we never had to think about up until recently. Fire season. We've had to evacuate sites due to nearby fires. Even on the coast last summer campers who had fled campgrounds and escaped to the coast due to fires filled the campground.*

*It is wrong for large fossil fuel firms to privatize their profits but dump their costs on the public. Oregonians have borne the costs of cleanup for disasters that were foreseen by the fossil fuel industry. **Oregon's Polluter Pays bill would require large fossil fuel firms to pay compensation for past climate change damages.** It is based on the principle that those responsible for creating pollution have a moral obligation to make amends. The approach is analogous to other, well-established federal and state programs that impose strict liability for cleaning up past pollution. Comparable Climate Superfund bills have been enacted in Vermont and New York and are being considered in several other US states.*

*For these reasons, I urge your support for SB 1187. Thank you for your consideration.*

*Sincerely,*

*Angela Gusa*