



April 7, 2025

To: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

From: Megan Kemple, Executive Director, Oregon Climate and Agriculture Network

RE: SB 1187 establishing the Climate Superfund Cost Recovery Program

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

Farmers and ranchers are experiencing the impacts of climate related extreme weather events such as heat domes, drought, floods, wildfire conditions and increasing unpredictability of the weather.

In 2024 OSU conducted in-depth interviews and focus groups with over 50 Oregon farmers. 100% reported facing climate-related challenges, particularly temperature extremes (94%) droughts (74%), the high frequency of unpredictable weather patterns (74%) and increased pests and disease pressure (52%).

Other challenges included smoke, water limitations, and wildfire risk.

"Other" Impacts included infrastructure damage, crop quality degradation, and increased expenses for replanting, demonstrating the broad economic toll of climate impacts.

Because of their very direct relationship to, and reliance on, nature's cycles and natural resources, climate change is increasingly putting Oregon's farms and ranches at risk, especially small, beginning and historically underserved producers who have less access to capital.

They need financial support to respond to climate related impacts to their operations, but they also need funding to be more resilient to fire, drought and extreme weather events-- funding for things like trailers for evacuation, shade cloth, and irrigation efficiency.

We're supportive of SB 1187 because the Climate Superfund Cost Recovery Program, which would be established by the bill, could benefit agricultural communities in Oregon, by promoting climate change mitigation and providing funding for both disaster relief and resilience.

Thank you for your consideration.