

Submitter: James Cavin

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1187

I am here to strongly voice my support for Senate Bill 1187, a crucial piece of legislation that will benefit every Oregonian, save taxpayer dollars, and encourage the development of non-polluting energy while ensuring that fossil fuel companies are finally held accountable for the damage they have caused and are continuing to cause to our environment. Those companies, who have long reaped billions of dollars in profits, should be required to pay their fair share for the environmental and climate damages accrued between 1995 to 2024: periods during which many of these companies knowingly suppressed evidence of the damage use of their products were causing. We already know how challenging it is to cover the rising costs of wildfires, floods, and other climate-related disasters. SB 1187 will help provide the necessary funds to address these critical issues—relieving some of the financial burden from hardworking Oregonians.

Americans love the idea of fairness. Fossil fuel companies have been extremely profitable by passing on the external costs of unchecked emissions to Oregonians and the rest of the world. and it's time they take responsibility by helping pay for the damage they've caused. Currently, Oregon taxpayers foot the bill for the devastation caused by climate change while fossil fuel companies make massive profits without facing any responsibility for their role in the crisis. It's not fair to ask the people of Oregon to continue paying for the damage caused by these companies.

We know how much fossil fuel has been mined by these companies because the amounts are carefully tracked. From that data we can determine the exact amount of greenhouse gas emissions each company is responsible for, allowing us to determine financial contributions proportional to a company's individual impact. This ensures that each company is held accountable based on their actual role in contributing to climate change.

The funds collected from this legislation will be used directly to finance climate change adaptation and resilience projects within Oregon including wildfire prevention, flood protection, upgrades to vital infrastructure like transportation and power grids, improvements to water supply and wastewater systems, and ensuring the health of our forests and ecosystems. These projects will safeguard the future of Oregon for generations to come.

In conclusion, SB 1187 is an essential step towards both fairness, and climate resilience for Oregon. By holding fossil fuel companies accountable and reinvesting those funds into our communities, we can build a stronger, safer, and more sustainable future. I urge you to support this bill and take action now to ensure a

better tomorrow for all Oregonians.