

Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Brock Smith, Members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment:

Thank you for considering this critical legislation today. SB 1187 is long overdue. Please pass it and Make Polluters Pay. Not only has the fossil fuel industry earned incredible – unfathomable for most of us – profits for decades while quietly poisoning the planet, these companies have [known about the damage they were causing since the 1950s](#), and they have [tried to cover it up](#), with tactics ranging from counterfeit science, to harassment of scientists, to outright lies.

With just a tiny fraction of their hundreds of billions of dollars in annual profits, fossil fuel companies have, for decades, engaged in a deliberate, concerted, and frankly, sinister campaign of disinformation. To see just how successful they have been, simply look at all the [testimony in opposition](#) to this bill, written by people who have been so completely duped by this industry that has been the epitome of greed and recklessness.

Because of this nefarious disinformation campaign, not only have we lost at least 50 years of potential action to reverse the impacts of climate change, but we STILL face an uphill battle to overcome the widespread and willful ignorance that has kept governments and citizens from taking necessary action.

Much like states have held to account the tobacco and pharmaceutical companies that have knowingly and deceitfully promoted harmful products for profit, it's time to hold fossil fuel companies accountable for this slow-motion train wreck some of us have been watching happen for our entire lives.

Until now, citizens have borne the entire burden with respect to the impacts of climate pollution. SB 1187 will put some of those immense, obscene profits to work mitigating damages from climate disasters, developing strategies of resilience, and making polluting less profitable.

Please pass SB 1187 this session. We cannot wait even one more year.

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References

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