

Submitter: Sarah Guest
On Behalf Of: Sacred Organizing Coalition
Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1187

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 climate change is causing more and more damage that communities need help with; the profiting companies that have contributed should pay for the damage. I live in Bend, OR, where I am scared of experiencing wild fires like LA. Every summer, the threat of wildfires and the smoke we experiencing worsens. I am scared that if or when a natural disaster impacts us, our community will be devastated and need support to rebuild.

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,

Sarah Guest, LCSW
Organizing with Sacred Organizing Coalition
Works for St. Charles Health System
Bend, OR