

Dear Senate Committee on Energy and Environment:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on SB 1187. My name is Elizabeth Gazeley, and I am a second-year law student at Lewis & Clark. I support SB 1187 because there is a need to adapt, mitigate, and redress climate change effects in Oregon.

Increases in global concentrations of greenhouse gases primarily from human activities have resulted in rising global average temperatures. [David Herring, NOAA \(Oct. 29, 2020\)](#). The top ten highest global average temperatures have occurred within the last decade. [NASA, \(2025\)](#). These global average temperatures from the last decade have been almost 2°F warmer than preindustrial temperatures from 1850 to 1899. [Fifth National Assessment \(2024\)](#). This dramatic increase in global temperatures has increased the magnitude and frequency of wildfires, drought, heavy precipitation, and other extreme ecological disturbances. *Id.*

Oregon is no exception. Climate change is and will continue to contribute to extreme heat events, increased frequency and severity of wildfires, droughts, and floods throughout Oregon. [Oregon Climate Action Commission's Biennial 2023 Report to the Oregon Legislature](#). Climate events not only pose great risks to Oregonian's public health and safety, but also local economies. The 2020 fires in Oregon, for instance, destroyed approximately between six and seven billion dollars in property alone. [Reilly, et al. at 2.](#)

“[T]he costs of inaction on climate change are significant and growing.” 2023 Report. These costs fall on our most vulnerable and marginalized populations. The “polluter pays” principle seeks to remedy this injustice. SB 1187 burden shifting framework will provide Oregonians with an equitable and just climate action. SB 1187 enables major emitters of greenhouse gas emissions in Oregon to be held accountable for the environmental and economic harms they have knowingly contributed to. In doing so, SB 1187 will provide the means to implement necessary climate adaptation and mitigation measures to address harms already inflicted upon Oregonians.

I applaud the Committee's efforts to take meaningful steps to increase Oregon's climate resilience and adapt to climate change. I encourage the Committee to continue to support and develop SB 1187.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Gazeley