

Submitter: Douglas Fournet

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1187

SB 1187 seeks to hold large corporations accountable for their wanton destruction of the climate. While the Trump Administration is busy relaxing standards such as limits on arsenic emissions, it is comforting to know that Oregon legislators are taking a stand against pollution and attempting to pass legislation that would internalize GHG emission costs, and make major polluters pay for their recklessness. To the best of my knowledge, this bill would NOT cost taxpayers a dime, and would likely reduce energy costs in the long term if it manages to force these emitters to transition to renewably-sourced energy.

I've seen a ton of misinformation in the comment section for this bill, as well as a number of Oregonians protesting the Environmental Justice considerations baked into much of Oregon's modern environmental legislation. Given the self-proclaimed backgrounds of many of these commenters, I would argue that many of them are, in fact, members of Environmental Justice communities themselves, but have been misled into arguing against their own personal interests. The power of major polluters to gaslight hardworking Oregonians into endorsing legislation that only hurts themselves must be stymied, and I believe that a solid step in this process is the passage of SB 1187.