

Submitter: James Cole

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1187

I write here to testify in support of Oregon SB 1187. This Bill effectively shifts the costs of climate change adaptation from Oregon's taxpayers to the industries most responsible for causing the problem in the State. Without SB 1187, the communities being destroyed by climate change impacts bear nearly the entire burden of rebounding. We have hit record-breaking temperatures in 61 cities in that last decade. Those temperatures are accompanied by increases in incidents of heat stroke, wildfire, and drought which in turn cost Oregon's residents costly sums.

I am pleased that Senator Golden is giving his full support to this Bill. When I was a student at Southern Oregon University I voted for him to safeguard the security of Oregon. In the years since, southern Oregon especially has been battered by climate-induced disasters. In 2020, when I graduated, the region was razed by wildfires. Talent and Phoenix were hit especially hard. Seeing how the fires devastated the area was surreal, and seeing Emigrant Lake lower than I had ever seen it before struck me hard as I had rowed on that lake with SOU's crew team. Rather than have Oregon's residents pay for these disasters, we should be making the ones responsible foot the bill. Thank you.