

Submitter: Andrew Langford

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1187

Chair Sollman (or Madam Chair), Vice-Chair Brock Smith, members of the committee, my name is Andrew Langford. I am a Lutheran pastor from Eugene, where I serve Emmaus Lutheran Church; I serve a congregation that is a part of the denomination the ELCA, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America; I've come today along with other members of the Sacred Organizing Coalition; we are immediately identifiable thanks to our fashionable and deliciously colored mustard t-shirts. I'm speaking today in support of Senate Bill 1187.

I rise today to speak on behalf of this bill because of my deep care for my fellow Oregonians and this beautiful corner of the world we call home, workplace, and playground. Like many here, I've watched with horror as the effects of climate change devastate the lives of real people in my community. Too often, we are reduced to merely reacting to the awful yet predictable cycles of climatological violence and loss that are the hallmarks of our era.

As a Christian, my highest ideals are to love God and love neighbor. I believe in the scriptural, divine invitations to all humankind to steward the creation in a way that is harmonious, just, and compassionate. Those deep convictions render sacred the work of considering how we ought to live in a world on fire. Though I don't expect other Oregonians to share my theological convictions or the motivations that arise from them, I do invite all my neighbors and fellow Oregonians to consider the deeply interconnected webs of community of which we are all a part. Sen. Robinson, I believe you reasonably point out our own ongoing complicity in the emerging crisis because we continue to use fossil fuels and no, we probably wouldn't appreciate an immediate closure of all gas pumps. But that does not mean that we should not hold large fossil fuel firms accountable. It just means that we should also hold ourselves accountable. When we facilitate the degradation of our natural habitats, actively and passively, individually and collectively, we harm ourselves. It is time that we took seriously our responsibilities to each other and to this place we call home. I believe SB 1187 can be an important part of fulfilling that sacred duty. Thank you for hearing my testimony today.