



April 8, 2025

Senate Energy and Environment  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem Oregon 97301

**Re: SB 1187 - SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Sollman, Vice Chair Brock Smith, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Moriah Daniels, I am a law student at Lewis & Clark Law School and I volunteer for the Northwest Environmental Defense Center, serving as the Environmental Justice Coordinator (NEDC). NEDC is a nonprofit environmental organization that has worked for over 50 years to protect the environment and natural resources of the Pacific Northwest. Our Environmental Justice Team specifically focuses on protecting frontline communities from disproportionate environmental harms, and we are deeply concerned about the extent to which climate adaptation will burden the most vulnerable among us. I write today in **strong support of Senate Bill 1187**.

While it's encouraging to see all the great environmental work Oregon has accomplished, it's disheartening that lawmakers have yet to provide common sense funding for the inevitable need to adapt to climate change.<sup>1</sup> Climate change is already responsible for numerous multi-billion-dollar disasters in Oregon that will only increase in frequency.<sup>2</sup> Oregonians could face annual income losses of up to \$12,000 as a result of climate-related economic disruptions.<sup>3</sup> The most recent reports **quantifying the cost of climate adaptation in Oregon reach at least \$22.3 billion**.<sup>4</sup> Without further advance planning, including thinking about what it will cost and who should pay for it, Oregon taxpayers will be forced to bear the entire financial and emotional

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<sup>1</sup> Hillary Borrud, *Oregon Will Continue 'Climate Action' Despite EPA Rollbacks, Governor Says*, Oregonian (Mar. 13, 2025), <https://www.oregonlive.com/politics/2025/03/oregon-will-continue-climate-action-despite-epa-rollbacks-governor-says.html>.

<sup>2</sup> Keaton Miller et al., *The Economic Costs of Climate Change for Oregonians: A First Look*, Forum on Oregon Climate Economics (2024).

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

<sup>4</sup> John Talberth, *Report: Oregon Remains Unprepared for the Costs of Climate Adaptation*, Center for Sustainable Econ. (Mar. 16, 2025), <https://www.sustainable-economy.org/report-oregon-remains-unprepared-for-the-costs-of-climate-adaptation#:~:text=All%20told%2C%20these%20amount%20to,timber%20could%20be%20levied%20now.>

burden of heat-related deaths, infrastructure failures, wildfires, water shortages, and the loss of vital fisheries.

SB 1187 begins to address this economic imbalance between corporate entities and Oregonians. As Senate Republican Leader Daniel Bonham has acknowledged, a climate agenda that fails to account for the economic realities faced by everyday Oregonians is infeasible.<sup>5</sup> This bill offers a win-win, practical and balanced solution by placing the cost of climate adaptation where it belongs. Oregon communities are already experiencing the physical cost of climate change; this bill helps to alleviate at least the economic costs.

This Bill is not a tax on Oregonians. SB 1187 reflects a crucial and long-overdue shift in environmental governance from reactive to restorative. It recognizes that the climate crisis is not a just disaster, but also a legacy of corporate decisions that externalize environmental and health costs on the public. This problem will not go away with simple forest management; we need to develop real solutions to protect people or else communities will continue to suffer, lives will continue to be lost in disaster, and the social, economic, environmental, and cultural losses will continue to skyrocket.

Vermont and New York have already set the curve in creating actionable avenues to implement common sense economic programs, and it is only right that Oregon joins as a leader in climate justice. Oregon has the opportunity to lead the nation in making polluters pay for the damages they helped create, and in doing so, to invest in a more just and resilient future for all. I urge you to support this legislation as a foundational step in climate accountability and equitable recovery.

Thank you for your consideration, and I once again **urge your support on SB 1187.**

Sincerely,

Moriah Daniels

*'25 J.D. Candidate, Lewis & Clark Law School*

**Environmental Justice Project Coordinator**

**Northwest Environmental Defense Center**

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<sup>5</sup> Borrud, *supra* note 1.