

April 7, 2025

Senate Committee On Energy and Environment
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Support for Senate Bill 1187

Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Brock Smith and Members of the Committee:

The Multnomah County Office of Sustainability asks that you support Senate Bill 1187. Establishing a climate superfund to help Oregonians prepare for and recover from the very real impacts of climate change makes sense. The cost of dealing with climate change is already being felt by local and state governments. Senate Bill 1187 would create a way to recover those costs from those entities that created the problem to begin with.

Multnomah County has a long history of addressing climate change. The county has reduced our internal greenhouse gas emissions, taken action to reduce community-wide emissions, and continues to prepare our community for the dire impacts we are already experiencing. Increasingly, Multnomah County is also having to respond to climate change fueled extreme weather events, which incurs major costs for the County. For example, opening cooling shelters during heat waves, air shelters during smoke events, and trying to maintain aging infrastructure during increasingly unpredictable and extreme weather events. SB 1187 would create a revenue stream funded by the companies whose pollution caused climate change.

We applaud the bold action in Oregon to address greenhouse gas emissions moving forward, including the Climate Protection Program, the Clean Fuels Program, the Clean Energy Targets bill (HB 2021), and others. However, these programs are also undermined by the legacy of pollution generated prior to these policies. Earlier action by fossil fuel polluters —, who were well aware of the climate impacts of their products and industries — would have left us today with a more stable climate and a greater likelihood of avoiding the most catastrophic impacts of climate changes in the years to come. Unmitigated emissions in the past are driving real costs for Oregonians today, from property damage due to wildfires and flooding, diminished quality of life and well-being due to wild fire smoke, morbidity and mortality from catastrophic heat waves, and so many other well-documented impacts. The entities responsible for creating that pollution

have a moral and financial obligation to pay for the protection and restoration of our community and environment from the impacts of climate change.

We strongly urge your support of Senate Bill 1187 and stand with you in addressing the climate crisis, demanding accountability for the greenhouse gas emissions driving the crisis both past, present and future.

Sincerely,

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