



Locally Grown
and
GROWING STRONG

Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Brock Smith, and members of the committee:

Oregon Farm Bureau is in strong opposition to Senate Bill 1187. OFB is the state's most inclusive agriculture organization, proudly representing more than 6,500 family farms and ranches that produce more than 220 agricultural commodities. From hops and hazelnuts to cattle, cranberries, and timber with operations spanning from just a few acres to thousands, our members utilize all farming methods including organic, conventional, regenerative, biotech, and even no-tech.

For Oregon's ag and natural resource industries—already navigating increasing regulatory and cost burdens—SB 1187 threatens to add another expensive, unnecessary layer that siphons resources away from where they're needed most.

This bill is unnecessary given the dozens of climate programs the state is already implementing. Through Executive Order 20-04, nearly 20 state agencies are actively engaged in targeted greenhouse gas reduction strategies. In addition, this legislature passed HB 3409 in 2023—a comprehensive omnibus climate bill.

Oregon is not dragging its feet. We're already doing the work.

If Oregon sends a message that it's willing to punish specific industries with uncertain, costly legal liabilities, we risk pushing investment, jobs, and critical infrastructure to other states. For agriculture, forestry, transportation, and manufacturing—industries that are foundational to Oregon's economy—this kind of policy instability is a major red flag.

We've seen how this plays out in other states. In New York, the Climate Change Superfund Act has led to lawsuits and warnings that the associated costs will be passed down to consumers through higher energy bills. Oregon's ag producers and resource-based businesses—who rely on affordable energy for operations, transport, and processing—cannot absorb these kinds of cost increases without negative ripple effects across the supply chain. Now is not the time to increase costs on anyone, let alone the Oregonians who produce our food and fiber.

The retroactive nature of SB 1187 is likely to draw significant legal challenges. Courts may find the strict liability framework unconstitutional, as has already been argued in New York. Additionally, assigning precise blame for climate damages to individual companies through a state-level process is scientifically fraught and highly speculative, opening the door to years of litigation rather than effective action.

A healthy and resilient Oregon doesn't mean much if we continue to burden our communities with ever-increasing fees, taxes, and regulations. Every time a bill like this is introduced, we show up and defend our industries, and for Oregon Farm Bureau, it's our family farmers and

ranchers. We have the privilege to speak on their behalf and every time we work to advocate on their behalf and remind legislators why they need support, not another regulation.

SB 1187 duplicates existing efforts, undermines progress, exposes the state to legal risk, and could do serious harm to rural economies and working lands. Oregon's agriculture and natural resource industries are already part of the climate solution through voluntary practices, stewardship, and innovation.

We can give these concepts catchy names, but behind them lies a harsher truth: more costs, more red tape, and more pressure piled onto the backs of farmers and ranchers who are already stretched to the limit. It's not saving Oregon if we're breaking the people who feed it.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'LK' or 'Lauren Kuenzi'.

Lauren Kuenzi

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