

Submitter: Jennifer Ostner

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1187

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

Please support on SB 1187: Make Polluters Pay. This bill has a public hearing in the Senate Energy and Environment Committee on Monday, April 7th with a possible work session scheduled for Wednesday, April 9.

This bill is important to me because it provides a mechanism to penalize perpetrators of climate pollution, which will have devastating impacts across our states and without a funding mechanism, the costs will be primarily paid by average citizens, low income communities, and folks that don't have means for a back up plan.

Seeing how the wildfires have devastated the state in recent years, myself personally having to evacuate my home with two small children due to wildfires since 2020, I'm angry that we've punted responsibility of climate polluters this long as it is. Forecasts for the magnitude of climate disaster costs is terrifyingly large, and we need to adjust our business-as-usual practices and expectations so that when we're forced to rebuild communities or provide improved services (because we don't have enough fire fighters, or because we can't run public youth programs in poor air quality), it's not your struggling teacher, farmer, or industry laborer fronting the bill, but the corporations that deliberately took advantage of misinformation, the delayed future consequences of their pollution, and other systems that separated their actions and the related pollution,

Oregon's Polluter Pays bill would require large fossil fuel firms to pay compensation for past climate change damages. It is based on the principle that those responsible for creating pollution have a moral obligation to make amends. The approach is analogous to other, well-established federal and state programs that impose strict liability for cleaning up past pollution. Comparable Climate Superfund bills have been enacted in Vermont and New York and are being considered in several other US states.

For these reasons, I urge your support for SB 1187. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Jennifer