



Service Employees  
International Union  
Local 503

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To: Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

From: Mike Powers, SEIU Local 503

RE: Support for SB 1187

Date: April 9, 2025

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

My name is Mike Powers, and I am writing on behalf of SEIU Local 503, our labor union representing approximately 70,000 working people across Oregon, primarily in the public and care sectors. Based on our firsthand experiences with the growing impacts of climate change, we are proud to stand in strong support of SB 1187.

Working families deeply feel the effects of climate change. Increasingly extreme weather – hotter temperatures, prolonged droughts, and larger, more destructive wildfires – has led to devastating consequences: lost wages, job displacement, destruction of homes, and tragically, the loss of loved ones.

Beyond the human toll, the financial burden on Oregon taxpayers is enormous. In late 2024, the legislature had to convene a special session to allocate over \$200 million to the Oregon Department of Forestry and the Oregon State Fire Marshal to address costs from the most expensive wildfire season in our state's history.

While many experts and coalition partners have already offered detailed testimony in support of this legislation, I would like to emphasize that our union fully endorses the creation of the Climate Superfund Cost Recovery Program. We believe it is both fair and necessary that polluters contribute to funding climate adaptation and mitigation efforts that benefit families and communities across Oregon – from the Pacific coast to the Snake River. Resulting projects will benefit all Oregonians, no matter where we live or what we believe.

We are also encouraged by the state's commitment to assessing climate damages and developing a comprehensive climate resilience plan. SEIU Local 503 is prepared to actively participate in the rulemaking and strategy development process, which is to be completed by January 2028.

We respectfully urge the committee to support SB 1187 and help ensure a more resilient future for all Oregonians.

Thank you for your time and consideration.