



## Jackson County Community Long-Term Recovery Group

PO Box 680 | Talent, Oregon 97540

[care@jccltrg.org](mailto:care@jccltrg.org) | [www.jccltrg.org](http://www.jccltrg.org)

April 07, 2025

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

The Jackson County Community Long-Term Recovery Group writes to strongly support Senate Bill 1187, which would finally hold the largest climate polluters financially accountable for the damage their emissions have caused, right here in Oregon.

In 2020, the Almeda and South Obenchain Fires devastated southern Oregon. The Almeda Fire destroyed over 2,800 structures, most of which were mobile homes. Thousands were displaced, especially low-income families and retirees.

I've heard from survivors who say:

"Every step of rebuilding feels like reliving the trauma."

Not just because they lost everything, but because now, they're watching their insurance rates skyrocket or, worse, being dropped altogether. One of our board members recently had their insurance carrier drop them after 20 years of coverage.

This crisis didn't end when the fires were extinguished. Families still struggle with unstable housing, rising costs, and fear of what comes next. And they're expected to carry the financial burden while the companies most responsible for climate change pay nothing.

Communities like those in the Rogue Valley are stepping up. Through bold action, we created Rogue Reimagined—the nation's first multi-jurisdictional disaster recovery plan—a roadmap for a resilient, community-led recovery.

But local resources are stretched thin. We cannot keep asking taxpayers and survivors to shoulder the cost alone.

You will hear arguments that this bill will increase rates for Oregonians, but that is a false-flag argument. Polluters don't need an excuse to raise prices; they do it regardless.

Over the last 10 years, Oregon has suffered billions in damages from wildfires, floods, heat waves, and ice storms—all made worse by climate change.

---

**Building on the lessons of recovery to weave an equitable, inclusive, and responsive disaster services network through collaboration, convening, and advocacy**

Meanwhile, polluters in Oregon post tens of billions in annual profits, even as they face lawsuits for their role in these disasters.

SB 1187 creates a Climate Superfund, modeled on the federal program that holds polluters responsible for toxic waste cleanups. This bill simply asks the worst climate offenders to help pay for the damage they helped create.

This is about fairness. If Oregonians are paying the price—in lost homes, lost lives, and lost peace of mind—then the companies who helped create those losses should help pay for the recovery.

I urge you not to let Senate Bill 1187 die in committee, but to stand up for your constituents and our youth, whose future health and well-being rely on your actions. Take a stand for climate accountability and community resilience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Caryn Wheeler Clay". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Caryn Wheeler Clay, MPH  
Outgoing Executive Director