

Submitter: James Matichuk

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1187

Wildfires have ravaged Oregon communities,  
and it's time polluters pay their share.  
My name is James Matichuk from Medford, OR.  
I want to see SB 1187 pass this session  
because I've seen parts of my community  
devastated by wildfire, and made to  
pay the costs.

When the Almeda Fire happened in Sept of 2020,  
we tucked our kids in that night, feeling uneasy because we knew we were  
In the next zone to be evacuated. The fire was contained  
and we were safe, but not everyone I knew was  
so lucky. A friend from my church was evacuated  
without warning as flames licked her back fence.  
She lost everything.

For a year after, whenever I drove through Phoenix and Talent  
I would shutter with sadness at homes,  
mobile parks and businesses  
that were decimated. Developers and investors  
pushed out longtime residents to grab up land.  
Four years later, our community is only now just starting to  
See a replacement for some of the affordable  
housing that was destroyed in the fire. This has contributed  
to a rise of the unhoused in our community.  
Meanwhile, fossil fuel companies have  
grown richer, and have not taken responsibility  
for the ways they have aggravated the  
current climate crisis that contributes to  
wildfires.

Fossil fuel corporations profit while  
families rebuild from ashes.  
SB 1187 makes polluters pay—so communities can survive,  
recover, and thrive.  
Currently, those who are most vulnerable are those who  
bear the brunt and suffer the most; those who are  
most responsible—polluters, and fossil

fuel companies—pay the least.  
Make Polluters Pay ensures that  
Our communities can be  
Resilient, can survive  
And thrive by asking those  
responsible to contribute their share to  
wildfire recovery.  
Instead of the victims.  
We can't wait any longer.  
Let's make polluters pay.  
SB 1187 is that better way.  
Thank you.