

Submitter: Sara Brown

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1187

Dear Senate Committee on Energy and Environment,

As a law student studying environmental and climate change law, I strongly support SB 1187. The evidence of climate change impacts in Oregon is overwhelming and demands immediate action. The 2024 wildfire season alone burned 1.9 million acres and cost \$350 million, while the January ice storm claimed 17 lives?. These catastrophic events demonstrate the urgent need for climate adaptation and mitigation funding.

The bill's approach of making polluters pay for their contributions to climate disasters is both legally sound and ethically necessary. As documented, the fossil fuel industry was aware of their products' climate impacts but concealed this information?. This legislation would rightfully shift the financial burden from Oregon taxpayers to the industries responsible for these damages.

??

From a legal perspective, this legislation embodies the fundamental principle of environmental law that polluters should bear the costs of their environmental damage. As the bill states, "It's a basic rule in any home, classroom, workplace or neighborhood: make a mess, clean it up."?

??

I urge the committee to pass SB 1187 to protect Oregon's communities and environment for future generations.

Respectfully submitted,
Sara Brown