

Submitter: John Pitney
On Behalf Of: Oregon Interfaith Power and Light
Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1187

Testimony in favor of SB1187 "Make Polluters Pay"

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As a United Methodist pastor, I take the moral truth of the stories in Genesis seriously. The moral truth is humanity is placed in the Garden of Creation to "serve and keep it." The rules of the House are simple:

1. Take only your share.
2. Clean up after yourselves.
3. Keep the House in good repair for future occupants.

In my life time it's been Genesis in reverse. In Juliana v. U. S. the suit Our Children's Trust has brought against the federal gov't on behalf of 21 children and youth, the Administrations (Obama, Trump and Biden) have agreed global heating is:

Real. It's Serious. It's Us.

They do not deny 12 presidents since JFK new as much. They do not deny that since I graduated from Junction City Senior High School animal populations around the world have declined 69% across all species. What they do deny is any responsibility.

I speak in support of SB 1187 because it places responsibility. I pay attention to what is happening at the federal level and I'm proud to be from Oregon where we have a chance to legislate our values. Industries that pollute most, pay their fair share to clean up after themselves and from their share we have the funds to help communities work at wildfire prevention and resilience and we can give moral priority to those with the least responsibility and the most to lose. It's about fairness and it is not fair that taxpayers, many of whom hardly pollute at all, foot the whole bill. The hebrews said it pretty well:

I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore, choose life that you and your descendants may live! (Deut. 30:19)

Thank you for your conscientious work on this and other legislation for Oregon!