

Submitter: Michael Madlener
On Behalf Of: Myself
Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1187
Subject: Urgent Opposition to Oregon Senate Bill 1187 - The Misguided "Climate Superfund" Legislation

Dear Senate Committee On Energy and Environment,

I am writing to express my extreme opposition to Oregon Senate Bill 1187, legislation that threatens to impose severe economic harm on our state under the guise of climate action. This bill, which establishes a so-called "Climate Superfund Cost Recovery Program," is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected.

Oregon taxpayers are already overburdened! The notion that we must endure yet another layer of taxation, especially one as vaguely defined and potentially far-reaching as this, is unconscionable. Oregon families and businesses are struggling with the high cost of living, and this bill will only exacerbate the problem by further driving up energy costs.

Furthermore, it's important to acknowledge that Oregon's carbon footprint is already among the lowest in the nation. We have made significant strides in responsible environmental stewardship. Punishing our state with a retroactive climate tax for emissions dating back to 1995 is not only unfair but also counterproductive. It penalizes past activity without a clear demonstration of commensurate future benefit.

The structure of this "Climate Superfund" raises serious concerns. The bill creates a mechanism to collect funds that will then be distributed to "climate justice initiatives" through non-profit grant programs. This convoluted system creates the potential for inefficiency and a lack of accountability. Respected, it has the appearance of being another scheme that will burden consumers to fund special interest groups.

This legislation will have an indirect and particularly adverse impact on those who are on fixed and lower incomes. Businesses, facing increased costs imposed by this bill, will inevitably be forced to pass these costs along to the consumer, who will ultimately be forced to foot the bill. This will disproportionately burden those least able to absorb additional financial strain.

Let us also not forget that Oregon already has a significant climate initiative in place: Governor Brown's Climate Protection Program. This existing program already addresses many of the stated goals of SB 1187. Is this bill nothing more than a duplicative and wasteful expansion of bureaucratic control?

I urge you to carefully consider the devastating consequences of SB 1187. It will harm Oregon's economy, punish its citizens, and create a bureaucratic nightmare. I strongly urge you to vote against this ill-conceived legislation.

Respectfully,