



CONSOLIDATED OREGON INDIVISIBLE NETWORK

April 9, 2025

Chair Sollman, Vice Chair Brock-Smith, and the Other Members of the Committee,
My name is [Jeff Hammarlund](#). I am a semi-retired professor of climate and energy policy in Oregon, but I am testifying today in my role as co-chair of the Climate, Energy and Environment Team of the Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network. As you probably know, COIN is a network of over 50 grassroots Indivisible groups located throughout our state.

COIN has been following the development of SB 1187 nearly from its inception, including the most recent enhancements. We are strong supporters, and we urge you to help it become law.

Just yesterday, the Trump Administration released an Executive Order titled **Protecting American Energy from State Overreach** (https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/04/protecting-american-energy-from-state-overreach/?fbclid=IwY2xjawJjuqdleHRuA2FlbQlXMQABHUxfNM9q_rAso5wYgkhxJD0Beg0GJKVWafHKs89qd_pwjQ7w5qPG8lajRSL_aem_RnFmKessDg9iLLkAj-jg5g).

The stated objective is to ensure the “removal” of “all illegitimate impediments to the identification, development, siting, production, investment in, or use of domestic energy resources — particularly oil, natural gas, coal, hydropower, geothermal, biofuel, critical mineral, and nuclear energy resources.”

Much of this executive order is probably unconstitutional based on previous decision by the US Supreme Court to let stand a lower court decision allowing the City of Honolulu to bring a lawsuit against oil and gas companies for their contribution to damage caused by the effects of climate change. (See, for example, this [link](https://www.cbsnews.com/amp/news/supreme-court-climate-change-lawsuits-hawaii-energy-companies/) (<https://www.cbsnews.com/amp/news/supreme-court-climate-change-lawsuits-hawaii-energy-companies/>)). **However, if the Supreme Court reconsiders and decides otherwise, it appears that quite a few existing state laws and bills, including SB 1187, that President Trump calls “ideologically motivated”, simply because they support clean and renewable energy, will be null and void.** It is vital that all members of the Oregon Legislature, regardless of party, stand up to the onslaught of unconstitutional and unconscionable federal overreach.

I recall Senator Golden referring to this bill as a “paradigm shifting bill.” We agree, and we believe this paradigm shift is long overdue. However, in contrast to the misleading statements I have read from some of its opponents, the basic concept is quite simple. You have heard it many times during this hearing, and it is a concept we all know and should support: if you are the one who made the mess, you should also be the one who cleans that mess up.

This bill addresses a significant market failure. It will require the largest fossil fuel suppliers to pay reparations for the current damages that result from past emissions that contribute to climate change. It will help our communities address the rising costs of damages to their



infrastructure that result from forest and wildfires, increasingly severe storms, heat domes, droughts, and other forms of extreme weather that have resulted, in part, from greenhouse gas emissions. It ensures that fossil fuel suppliers will be held responsible for paying their fair share of the climate resilience costs in proportion to the historical amounts they of the emissions they provided. The bill does an excellent job of providing guidance on what could be included in Oregon's climate resilience strategy – forest health, wildfire prevention, support for impacted communities, upgrades to electric power grids can be a source of fires, enhanced flood protection, improvements to our water supply system, and much more.

We agree with the comments of one previous testifier who referred to this bill as Taxpayer Relief Bill. No longer will Oregon's taxpayers be only ones forced to pay the rising costs that result from greenhouse gas emissions. This bill will ensure that the polluters will also need to pay for some of these costs – again, if you contributed to the mess, you also need to help clean it up.

We also agree with the comments of another testifier who noted:

“While fossil fuels are a major factor in harming our environment, we have equally pressing issues in the form of polluted surface and ground water, continued sacrifice of life sustaining ecosystems in favor of more housing development, and continued expansion of the human footprint.”

This is why we need to expand this “polluter pay” model over time to address Oregon's air, water, and other ecosystems as well. And it is why we hope the Oregon legislature will also pass SJR 28-1, a measure that will refer to the voters an amendment to the state constitution confirming the Right to a Healthy Environment for all Oregonians. We believe that both bills are mutually supportive and will enhance the vital paradigm shift that Senator Golden and others have identified. If the voters pass the amendment to Oregon's constitution offered in SJR 28-1, it will be much more difficult (and I hope impossible) for this and future presidents to insist that our state constitution is also null and void.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hammarlund, semi-retired professor and co-chair of COIN's Climate, Energy and Environment Team