

Submitter: Margaret Sherraden
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1187
SB 1187 Climate Superfund Cost Recovery Program
Testimony in Support
April 7, 2025

Dear Chair Sollman, Vice Chair Smith, and members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment:

SB 1187 is a tax relief bill for Oregonians, who are paying the economic, environmental and health costs of climate change. Climate change resulting from fossil fuel use is coming at a very high cost to Oregon and taxpayers cover all the costs.

Fossil fuel companies – the largest contributors to climate change – should pay their fair share of the costs of addressing the effects of climate change. Since the Industrial Revolution, fossil fuels have powered and polluted Oregon. The industry has known that greenhouse gases have caused climate change for decades. Crucially, it also has obstructed the necessary transition from expensive and damaging fossil fuels to cheaper and cleaner renewable energy.

Though we have all suffered because of fossil fuel-induced climate change, the poorest among us have suffered the most. As a lifelong social worker, I have watched families struggle to keep up with energy bills, non-resilient housing, polluted ground and water and other ill effects. The poorest pay the largest proportion of their incomes on climate adaptation. This will only get worse.

Please support SB 1187 establishing a Climate Superfund Cost Recovery Program, requiring companies that sold oil, gas, and coal in Oregon between 1995 and 2024 to pay their fair share for past damages to pay for essential climate adaptation and resilience.

Taxpayers alone cannot and should not shoulder all the costs. Communities across Oregon require financial help to deal with the effects of climate change.

Thank you for your attention, your consideration, and your service.