

Allen Armstrong
Portland
LD 1870

Dear Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera, and members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee,

I write in support of LD1870, the Climate Superfund bill. Among the harms that will come as a result of excess CO₂ in the atmosphere, caused by burning fossil fuels, many will require funds for adaptation and restoration. These funds should be recovered from the companies that have sold them. The principle of "Let the Polluters Pay" that was applied to the tobacco companies should be applied also to fossil fuel companies. Like the tobacco companies, who lied, telling smokers that cigarettes were safe, fossil fuel companies have lied, assuring the public that burning petroleum products caused no harm to the atmosphere, even though their own research had shown otherwise. But disruption of the climate is vastly more damaging to humanity than even lung cancer. It will affect everyone, not just users of their products. LD1870 will not by itself solve climate change, but it will shift some of the costs of coping to those whose products have caused, with their full knowledge, the damage we all will suffer.