

Submitter: Diane Meisenhelter
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure: HB4115

My name is Diane Meisenhelter and my husband, Tim Crump and I are both PERS members and care very much about how our retirement funds are invested and have repeatedly testified to the Oregon Investment Council on this very issue. We have both made divesting from fossil fuels a priority in our own portfolios and have been extremely pleased at the results of our social impact investment decisions and subsequent growth of our funds. We believe strongly that true fiduciary responsibility involves not only total transparency about state holdings, but also the need for regular climate risk assessments which should also be made available to the public. I volunteer with NAACP Environmental Justice and with our Neighborhood Emergency Response Team (Sabin NET). Already at 1.1 degrees C. we are seeing real impacts of climate chaos locally with extreme weather and heat dome events. We had to mobilize for an unusual tornado that touched down on a swath through our neighborhood in the spring and I helped staff the cooling shelters during the extreme heat events last summer. The summer prior I helped deliver emergency supplies to areas impacted by the wildfires. It is extremely important that our state invest in ways that address state needs and values and do not contribute to worsening conditions that threaten the very lives of our neighbors and have negative financial impacts on our state. We must hasten the transition to a clean energy economy as the worlds' best climate scientists have warned and reduce carbon emissions by at least half this decade if we are to avoid unthinkable disasters.

We would urge you to support HB4115 and ensure both full transparency and adequate climate risk assessments in these challenging times of rapid change. Thanks for your time and consideration.