

Submitter: Drew Kaza
On Behalf Of: Independent Party of Oregon
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure: HB4115

To Chair Rep. Nathanson, Vice-Chairs Rep. Pham and Rep. Reschke, members of the Committee:

Thank you for your consideration of HB 4115.

Like most Oregonians, members of the Independent Party of Oregon are greatly concerned with the impact of climate change upon our beloved state. Within our ranks, there are also thousands of members of PERS.

One of the pillars of our party is a commitment to transparency. Another is a deep-seated commitment to the environment, of which climate change represents an absolute existential threat. HB 4115 is a good start at addressing both of these issues for our party and indeed, every Oregonian. As the Committee is well aware, the DivestOregon coalition has been forced to go to great lengths, FOI requests and months of delay to even partly unveil the cloak of secrecy that currently encompasses the investments being made by the Oregon Treasury.

This is NOT good government. Good government is fully transparent with the public's money, and open to debate about how it is being invested. That discussion and debate is simply not possible without full information and HB 4115 is a big step in the right direction by demanding such accountability.

There are perhaps many other areas of climate change policy that are and will be subject to strong disagreement, as witnessed in the trade and cap battles over the past several years, A bill demanding full and open disclosure of information, such as HB 4115, should not be among them.

As Oregon's third largest political party, we are hopeful that the members of this Committee, both Republicans and Democrats, can support legislation that is in the interest of ALL Oregonians. Knowledge is power. Give the power to the people by supporting HB 4115 and sending it on to the full House for adoption.

Respectfully submitted -

Drew Kaza
Co-Chair
Independent Party of Oregon