

Submitter: Ben Stevenson
On Behalf Of: Sunrise Movement PDX
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure: HB4115

Chair Nathanson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Ben Stevenson and I live in Portland. I'm testifying today to call for treasury transparency, in support of HB 4115. I'm writing on behalf of Sunrise Movement PDX, one of 500 local chapters of the national Sunrise Movement. We are a movement of young people fighting to make climate justice an urgent priority, end the corrupting influence of fossil fuel executives on our politics, and elect leaders who stand up for the health and wellbeing of all people.

I'm 17. I attend Cleveland High School in Southeast Portland. I should be working on the Biology Lab I have due tomorrow. Or maybe spending time outdoors in the cool winter weather, before another Spring and Summer of historic heat waves and suffocating smoke—winter weather that will likely be cooler than next year, and then the year after that, unless we take action to address the climate crisis. But our government's inaction on climate—your inaction on climate—means that instead, I am here urging you to pass HB 4115 for treasury transparency. I am urging you to stand up for the well-being of your constituents. To stand up for the future of my generation.

The climate catastrophe Oregonians are currently living through is the greatest challenge our state has ever faced. Our first step for addressing it is passing HB 4115. HB 4115 ensures that our Treasury publicly releases information about its \$130B holdings, holdings that ought to be treated like the public information they are. Furthermore, it encourages crucial climate risk and financial assessments for the money, a portion of which is invested in fossil fuels. Fossil fuels—coal, oil, gas—are a primary driver of the climate crisis. In other words, the state of Oregon is financially supporting the wildfires, heat waves, sea level rise, and other extreme climate impacts that pose an existential risk to the residents of our state.

As elected officials, you have a moral responsibility to end this immediately. Right now. Most of you support climate action; you want to look your children and grandchildren in the eye and be able to say that you did not sit idly by while Oregon burned. The first step towards doing this is the Treasury Transparency Bill.

The way we solve this crisis is when each of you decides that you will not tolerate climate arson—investment by our state in fossil fuels. It is when each of you decides to take concrete climate action.

For my generation and for all Oregonians on the frontlines of the climate crisis, we must pass HB 4115. We are running out of time.

Thank you.