

Submitter: David Taylor
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue
Measure: SB541

Hello,

I am writing about the bill SB541, which would require the Oregon State Treasury to implement human rights screening criteria when considering how to invest Oregon's public funds.

As a PERS retire since 2012, I strongly support SB541. I urge the OIC to support the bill, and further to engage in ongoing discussion of how Oregon can make investments which function: first toward a better world in the future; and second to provide for the economic needs of people today. Those two objectives are compatible, and I am sure that the OIC is capable of figuring out a productive strategy.

You will know about Oregon's indirect investment(s) in the Israeli company NSO Group. High-level OIC management offices supported that investment in 2018, even knowing that the Pegasus spyware, a primary product of NSO Group, had been provided to authoritarian governments like Saudi Arabia. The recent blacklisting of NSO Group by the US Commerce Department only emphasizes the bad judgment of the OIC on both ethical and financial grounds.

Again, I urge the OIC to support SB541, and to work toward developing ethical and profitable investment strategies for Oregon.

Thank you for your attention.

Respectfully,
David Taylor
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