

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and **show my strong support for HB 2601**. My name is Susan Hay and I have lived in Portland since 1987. I am a PERS member, and a teacher in Portland Public Schools. **The number one issue on most kids minds now is climate change. It is affecting their mental health, making them feel hopeless.**

And these kids are our future.

I am 59 years old, and learned about the “greenhouse effect” as a middle school student. At the time, I was terrified of the consequences. And yet here we are, having done little to avoid an impending climate catastrophe.

Since learning about global warming over 45 years ago, I’ve done what I can as an individual to not support the fossil fuel industry - I am a dedicated bike commuter (I own no car), I am a vegetarian, I don’t use air conditioning .... But whatever I do is practically meaningless, **because I don’t have control over how my money is invested!**

**The only way to steer ourselves away from approaching disaster is to stop investing in fossil fuels.** Of course this should have been done long ago, but instead we continue to build an economy founded upon fossil fuel production and consumption. But that foundation is doomed to collapse, causing our investments to lose value. And so it’s also the smart thing to do economically, because **fossil fuels are ultimately a dead end.**

Instead, the Oregon State Treasury (OST) is propping up fossil fuels with at least \$5.3 B (and probably far more, as 60% of PERS dollars are in secrecy-cloaked private investments). To ensure OST acts responsibly, **please support HB 2601**, the Treasury Investment and Climate Protection Act (TICPA) co-sponsored by Senators Jeff Golden and Michael Dembrow, and Representatives Courtney Neron, Maxine Dexter, Rob Nosse, Khanh Pham, Jules Walters, and Mark Gamba.

The TICPA immediately ends new OST fossil fuel investments, and phases out current investments in fossil fuels by 2035. To uncloak those private investments, the TICPA also mandates increased transparency.

Oregon is a leader in legislation to move the state to a green future; the Treasury must stop undermining that legislation by funding fossil fuels. HB 2601 protects Oregonians’ public pensions and our environment.

Thank you for your support of HB 2601. Oregon needs to be a leader.

Sincerely,

Susan Hay  
Teacher in Portland Public Schools  
PERS member