

Submitter: Thor Hinckley
On Behalf Of: Oregon Third Act Working Group
Committee: House Committee On Emergency Management, General
Government, and Veterans
Measure: HB2601

Greetings,

As a semi-retired professional and PERS beneficiary, I wanted to write and tell you why I support H.B. 2601. My wife, who will receive PERS benefits, and I live in SE Portland and are active members of our community.

Because of my concern for the future that my own children are facing, I work hard as an individual to ensure that my investment dollars do not support the industries that are causing so much damage.

So, I am frustrated that my wife's PERS retirement savings are so out of line with Oregonian values. We Oregonians can be proud of the work our legislature and other civic leaders have done to reduce our state's emissions. How frustrating that we are undermining this good work by investing in the companies that produce the emissions we claim we are trying to reduce.

I support H.B. 2601 because it will end new investments in fossil fuels. It will transparently phase out fossil fuel investments, consistent with climatic fiduciary duty and statute. In addition, it will show that private investments (60% of PERS) using aggregated data, which will remove a barrier that PERS members such as myself encounter now when we try to learn what our retirement dollars are actually supporting.

I urge the legislature to listen to the voices of so many young and old Oregonians who want our state to be part of the solution to climate change. H.B. 2601 is an essential step in ensuring that the PERS investment fund aligns with Oregon values and promotes a sustainable future.

Thank You!

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