

Chairperson Grayber, thank you for allowing me to speak today in support of HB 2601 and thank you for your service to our state as a union-represented Firefighter.

My name is Jaime Rodriguez. I am President of AFT-Oregon, representing 17,000 PERS members in K-12, community college and higher education in faculty and classified positions.

The American Federation of Teachers, the second largest teachers' union in the nation and the national affiliate of AFT-Oregon, passed a resolution in July 2022 that sums up our support of HB 2601:

Quote: "RESOLVED, that the American Federation of Teachers will urge boards managing the retirement funds of its members to divest their assets—in consultation with all members and their local unions—from all corporations or other entities that extract, transport, trade or otherwise contribute to the production of coal, oil and gas—and to reinvest those funds in projects that benefit displaced workers and frontline communities in the state or region of the given AFT members." Unquote.

An important part of HB 2601 is Transparency. AFT-Oregon is highly concerned about private investments in PERS. We have a right to know if PERS' private funds are being used for exploration, extraction, and exploitation related to fossil fuels. We currently have no way to know that. We **do** know private investors often work to block unions and undermine worker's rights.

For these reasons and more, please vote HB 2601 out of committee. Thank you Chairwoman and Committee members.