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My name is Amy Gray and I am the Senior Climate Finance Strategist at Stand.earth (<https://www.stand.earth/>) and I present testimony in support of House Bill 2601. Stand.earth is an international environmental advocacy group which coordinates the [Climate Safe Pensions Network](#) working to de-risk pension funds and accelerate investments in climate solutions. We urge the General Government Committee to support the passage of the bill.

The proposed bill ends new investments in fossil fuels immediately, ends investments in fossil fuels as soon as is allowed by fiduciary duty and statute, enacts a transparent phase out completed by 2035 and reveals private investments (60% of PERS) using aggregated data while respecting the public records statute. It is my position that this bill does far more than Treasurer Read's decarbonization plan. We support House Bill 2601's passage this legislative session and hope this committee will too.

Treasurer Read's plan allows for continued fossil industry support, a business-as-usual approach through offsets to emissions. In addition, there is no certainty that the plan will happen. The OIC has to receive the plan by 2024 and there is no accountability that you will adopt the plan. He is also terms out in 2024, and future Treasurers may not honor the plan. The legislation effectively ensures that it will happen and that continued fossil fuel industry support is removed from consideration as it does not align with climate targets and is not within fiduciary duty standards. Investments providing equal or better returns are absolutely available. There are already plenty of companies generating green products; investing in their successful ventures is investing in the just and equitable future for all.

With over 80% of the world's population experiencing extreme weather linked to climate change, investments and subsequent divestments have become a focal point for mitigating the financing behind the planet's most destructive industry. [As the Chair of the House Oversight Committee said](#): "Even though Big Oil CEOs admitted to my Committee that their products are causing a climate emergency, today's documents reveal that the industry has no real plans to clean up its act and is barreling ahead with plans to pump more dirty fuels for decades to come."

Further, divestment should be looked at as a responsible fiduciary act. It is legally sound and fiscally right. And it is no longer novel. With a decade of data, [more than 1500 institutions representing over \\$40 trillion in assets](#) have committed to some form of divestment. [A recent report](#) by the Institute for Energy and Economics shows increased support and evidence for the case for fossil fuel divestment. This report addresses the many arguments against fossil fuel divestment and updates a 2018 IEEFA report. The opponents of divestment made a simple case that divestment would lose money. It was not true then, and is less true now as hundreds of funds adopting various paths of divestment have maintained their investment targets. These include very large, mainstream banks, insurance companies and pension

funds. New York State, New York City, Washington DC, Chicago, Baltimore, Minnesota, San Mateo County, Los Angeles are all US examples of public pension funds that have implemented or are pursuing divestment. They have done thorough legal and financial checks. Notably, last year, Maine became the first state in the US to pass comprehensive divestment legislation, directing its state treasury and state pension fund to divest from all fossil fuels, including private equity funds. These examples speak to the mainstream regard of fossil fuels by funds and institutions that have a fiduciary requirement to invest for the long term in a prudent manner.

Oregon finds itself at a key moment, when the economics of the industry are clearly structurally declining in the long term - your investing horizon - not the short term. Climate science has never been clearer; impacts of fossil fuels companies on frontline and BIPOC communities are well-known and documented; viable, investable alternatives exist; and other pensions have already broken the ground.

We urge you to support HB 2601 and pass it through committee. It is critical that Oregon leads in divesting the state's pension funds and protecting the retirement future for all its first responders, teachers and public employees. They are the backbone of our communities and they deserve the very best we can give them. This is a monumental step in what could surely be a shining example for other states and a legacy you can be proud of.

Respectfully,

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