

Testimony to the House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans

February 12, 2023

Hogan M. Sherrow, Ph.D.

Director, Rural Oregon Climate Political Action Committee

Board President, Southern Oregon Climate Action Now

Mentor and Leader, Climate Reality Project

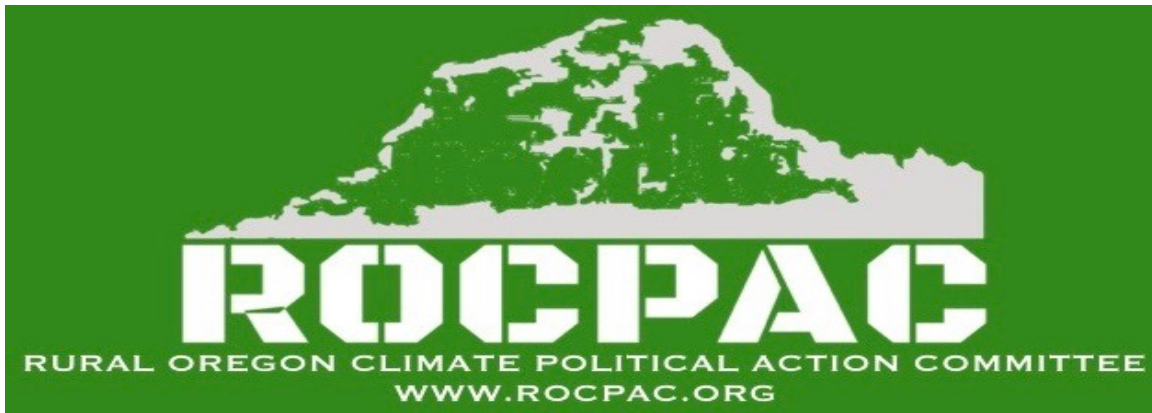
Introduction

- Director of Rural Oregon Climate Political Action Committee, a grassroots political action committee established to provide a voice for rural Oregonians advocating for climate legislation at the state and local levels.
- Board President of Southern Oregon Climate Action Now, with eight years' experience with the organization.
- Mentor and Leader with the Climate Reality Project, trained in 2012.
- Former research scientist, having studied the impacts of climate change on ecologies, humans, and animals for over thirteen years.
- Father of two.

Support for House Bill 2601: Requires State Treasurer to exit from certain carbon-intensive investments, subject to fiduciary duties.

Chair Grayber, Vice chairs Lewis and Tran and members of the House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans

Thank you for considering my testimony on this important legislation. My name is Hogan Sherrow, and I am Director of the Rural Oregon Climate Political Action Committee (ROCPAC). ROCPAC is a statewide, grassroots coalition dedicated to providing a voice for rural Oregonians who want to see climate legislation at the state and local levels. I am also Board President of Southern Oregon Climate Action Now (SOCAN), a Mentor and Leader with the Climate Reality Project, and a father of two. I am also an avid outdoorsman,



spending as much time as possible enjoying the natural wonders of Oregon, from hiking the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, to rafting and fishing the Rogue River, to hunting the forests of our region, to camping on the coast with my daughters. My parents moved our family to Oregon in 1982. My dad was a farmer and my mom an appointment secretary, and they taught me to embrace, respect, and protect our environment – a tradition I am working to pass on to my daughters, and one of the reasons I am supportive of HB 2601.

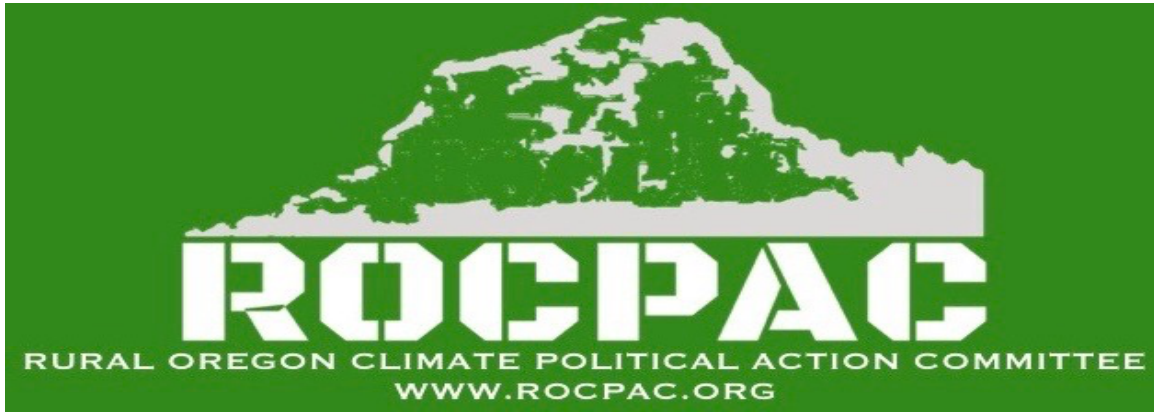
By passing the strongest version possible of HB 2601 you have the opportunity to address the unspoken truth behind fossil fuel profits, while providing the vision needed to establish Oregon as a leader in transparency and accountability in government investments and climate action. This legislation is historic in nature, and by supporting it, you will be positioning yourselves on the right side of history and demonstrating to all of Oregon the leadership qualities you were elected for. Thanks to Executive Order 20.04 and recent legislation like 100% Clean Energy, Oregon is a national leader when it comes to moving toward a sustainable energy future; the Treasury should not be undermining those efforts by funding fossil fuels as they did in just the last month. As was said by the [International Energy Agency](#), “If governments are serious about the climate crisis, there can be no new investments in oil, gas and coal, from now – from this year.”

The Labor Day fires of 2020 showed us, first-hand how devastating climate chaos can be. As a survivor of the Almeda Fire, I returned to my decimated neighborhood to find my house standing, but nearly all of my neighbors houses gone, or damaged beyond repair. I helped with recovery and felt the pain of my neighbors and the dismay and anxiety in my daughter everytime a fire was reported, she smelled smoke in the air or simply walked out our front door and looked across the street. We stand at a climate crossroads as a state, a nation, and a planet. Will we take the bold action needed to meet this challenge and ensure a future for our children and grandchildren? Or, will we continue business as usual behind the scenes, claiming to be concerned about climate action in public, while investing in the companies most responsible for the chaos behind and our children and grandchildren to an uncertain future where smoke from wildfires is the least of their problems? Thank you for your time and your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Hogan M. Sherrow, Ph.D." The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the left.

Hogan M. Sherrow, Ph.D.



Director

Rural Oregon Climate Political Action Committee