

Submitter: Jacob Apenes

On Behalf
Of:

Committee: House Committee On Emergency Management, General
Government, and Veterans

Measure: HB2601

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 2601. My name is Jacob Apenes. I am 24-years-old, a member of 350PDX's Forest Defense team and the Portland Committee for Human Rights in the Philippines. Alongside my volunteer work, I am a native Portlander, graduating from both the University of Portland and Wells High School. I have a deep love for everything Portland, from the people, to the quirky events, to the beautiful scenery.

I strongly support HB 2601: the Treasury Investment and Climate Protection Act. Our future on this planet depends upon a quick conversion from oil and coal to renewables. This conversion demands divestment from fossil fuels. We should not continue to prop up the very companies who profit from climate destruction.

I was born into in an era where the only thing I can think about is the climate crisis. I see my forests burning, states flooding, and once-in-a-generation weather events becoming commonplace. Oregon in twenty years will look nothing like it does now, and it is because of our irrational attachment to oil and coal. Beyond the financial benefits of divesting from fossil fuels before everyone else, the need to protect Oregon's environment should be plenty enough reason for you as a legislator to support this bill.

In January, I gave verbal testimony to the Oregon Investment Council about HB 2601. In it, I highlighted the importance of transparency. As a young adult who has only known the world as a place exploited for profit, it's impossible to believe a public entity as powerful as the Oregon Treasury will do the right thing. As the Oregon Treasury works to withhold the financial information PERS members deserve, it's obvious that they will choose profits over people. HB 2601 is the only way the Oregon Treasury will divest from fossil fuels. HB 2601 is the only way to force the Oregon Treasury to do the right thing.

Thank you for your support of HB 2601. I hope you understand the urgency of the climate crisis, and the need for a bill requiring divestment.

Sincerely,

Jacob Apenes