

Testimony in support of HB 2601

2.14.23

Dear Legislators,

I strongly support HB 2601.

As a PERS Retiree and a scientist who is concerned about climate change, I oppose using our funds for investments in fossil fuels. We know that we are on the brink of no return when it comes to climate. It is long past time that we stop burning fossil fuels, especially “natural” methane gas that is now known as a primary driver of the accelerating warming of our atmosphere. First, we should stop funding these destructive energy sources through investments and our personal purchases.

Second, we should transition to a clean electric economy. We have the technology to use wind, solar, and batteries for storage of electricity. Oregon has a pilot project to use the decommissioned Boardman Coal plant to generate renewable electricity with wind and solar and you have another pilot in Salem, the mini-grid to back up power when the grid is not operating. These excellent pilot projects demonstrate the direction we need to go as soon as possible.

It is time to quickly phase out use of fossil fuels for the sake of our health and to preserve the livability of our planet. Governor Brown took excellent steps toward reducing fossil fuel use, but the timelines are far too long.

The Treasury is undermining our efforts to reduce greenhouse gases by investing in fossil fuels. As a PERS retiree, as a scientist, as a concerned citizen of Oregon, as a human being, I ask you to pass HB2601.

Thank you,

Wendy Woods, PhD