

Submitter: Taryn Oakley

On Behalf
Of:

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

Measure: HB2601

Hi. My name is Taryn Oakley. I have been an Oregon PERS member for over 15 years. I am also a single mom, and an educator who teaches about climate change and other environmental issues.

I am writing today to express my support for HB 2601: The Treasury Investment and Climate Protection Act.

I am utterly confused as to how the Oregon Treasury can justify investing in fossil fuels when we have seen the impacts of climate change in full effect over the past few years. Each summer, we watch as our forests burn, choking our residents and filling our rivers with ash. We hit record highs of 116 degrees in June, two summers ago, which impacted our poorest communities the most. We have watched as the number of days of rain in our state has increased while the intensity of rainfall has increased, all while river temperatures have increased. Our salmon and the people and animals who depend on them are all suffering. None of this is normal. What is the point of having money set aside for retirement when we will be living in the apocalypse?

I do realize that most of the world is walking around, ignoring these signs, and carrying on with business as usual. But what if YOU and the state of OREGON decided to be courageous and take a stand and do what YOU KNOW IS RIGHT for our people, our land, and our futures?

I spend sleepless nights worried about my children's future. Will they have rivers to swim in? Fish to eat? Will there be enough resources? Will they be OK after I am gone? What do you think about at night? Do you think your children will be exempt from the crisis that we are entering?

If money is your ONLY concern, keep in mind that financially, fossil fuels are a risky long-term investment. Investing in green technology is not only safer for us, but it is safer for our pocketbooks as well.

To ensure OST to act responsibly, please support HB 2601, the Treasury Investment and Climate Protection Act (TICPA) co-sponsored by Senators Jeff Golden and Michael Dembrow, and Representatives Courtney Neron, Maxine Dexter, Rob Nosse, Khanh Pham, Jules Walters, and Mark Gamba.

The TICPA immediately ends new OST fossil fuel investments, and phases out current investments in fossil fuels by 2035. To uncloak those private investments, the TICPA also mandates increased transparency.

Today I am asking you to listen to the people of Oregon and to make choices that will protect us, our children and our children's children. It's time for our leaders to LEAD. The first step is to support HB 2601 and commit to putting people before profits.

We don't have any more time to wait. The time to act is now. Thank you for making Oregon a leader in ending fossil fuel investments. I look forward to your support of HB 2601.

Sincerely,
Taryn Oakley
Portland, Oregon