

Submitter: Lucy Hitchcock

On Behalf
Of:

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

Measure: HB2601

I am writing to ask your support for HB 2601. I am a retired minister dependent upon a pension fund in another state. And I am a determined activist to end the use of any but the transitional period necessary use of fossil fuels that are polluting and over-warming our planet. Climate warming is already causing billion dollar environmental and economic disasters in every season whose damage is increasing homelessness, pandemics and a transition in our planetary life way before we reach the 1.5 Centigrade warming so-called tipping point.

Fossil fuel use is already, naturally, phasing out. A person on a faith zoom call today said her heating bill had become unaffordable this winter because the cost of natural gas in her California utility has doubled. Recent research on gas stoves, reported in Oregon, has just shown that they pollute households and cause asthma in children and vulnerable adults. We have to phase it out. Renewable electricity is already much cheaper for domestic and industrial use. Pension funds will soon be affected downward with continued investment in fossil fuel companies. The stock market is already seesawing and I wonder, with my pension fund, if it will last through my retirement years. Your vote can protect PERS in Oregon.

This is an ethical issue and thus a religious issue. People of faith in Oregon are watching to see if our representatives will vote to protect our earth home, our natural habitat, endangered species and the welfare of our people of all income levels.

Please vote in support of HB 2601.

Rev. Dr. Lucy V. Hitchcock