

Submitter: Dena Turner

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. I am a PERS member and I am strongly committed to climate mitigation. As a PERS member, it is important that my investments reflect my interest in protecting our climate. As a PERS member, it is also important to me that the Oregon Treasury be transparent in its investments.

I strongly support HB 2601: The Treasury Investment and Climate Protection Act because as the former Deputy Comptroller of New York State said, “Divestment is a defensive tool employed to protect investors from the loss of value – losses as certain as climate change’s global reach.” I need the Oregon Treasury to protect PERS and the rest of the Treasury’s investments as we transition towards a green economy and I believe this bill is a straightforward, expedient way to do that.

The Legislature must play its part in mandating this transition because the Treasury does not have the urgency and has not been transparent about the risks to the portfolio that I need to reassure me that they can execute their own plan.

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.”

Oregon is a leader in legislation to move the state to a green future; the Treasury should not be undermining that legislation by funding fossil fuels as they did in just the last month to the tune of half a billion dollars. That’s outrageous!

Treasury investments affect the lives of Oregonians and those on the frontlines of climate change. Investment in the fossil fuel industry threatens our health, safety, and indeed our future. It is time that the Legislature acts to regulate the Oregon Treasury for transparency and to reduce investment in climate chaos causing fossil fuels, if the Treasury will not do that itself.

Thank you for your support of HB 2601. Oregon needs to be a leader.

Sincerely,
Dena D Turner
1122 SE 60th Avenue
Portland, OR 97215
503-953-3109