

Submitter: Pat Kaczmarek

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 retiree. I am a 30 year resident and homeowner in Southwest Portland.

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 to reassure me that they can execute their plan without clear directive and oversight by the state..

Just this week, the UN Secretary-General António Guterres warned that, even if global warming is “miraculously” limited to 1.5 degrees, the planet will still see a sizeable rise in sea water levels.

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!

It’s important that the Legislature does something NOW! We do not have more years to continue burning fossil fuels. Climate chaos is already well underway and minimizing how far this continues is our only way to protect a livable future for our children and for wildlife.

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

Sincerely,

Pat Kaczmarek
Resident of Portland Oregon