



Jaime Rodriguez, President
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To: House Committee On Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans
From: AFT-Oregon
Date: February 16, 2023
Re: Support for House Bill 2601

Chair Grayber and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the American Federation of Teachers-Oregon (**AFT-Oregon**), I respectfully urge your support for House Bill 2601. AFT-Oregon represents approximately 19,000 workers in Oregon's community college and universities in faculty, graduate employee, and classified positions, K-12 classified positions, and childcare workers. A great **majority** of our members are **PERS members**.

Our members stand for the Oregon Treasury to protect PERS and the rest of the Treasury's investments as we transition towards a green economy. We 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 demonstrate 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, and 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. This "business-as-usual" attitude threatens the future of our members as well as the entire world!

AFT-Oregon and its members urge your support of House Bill 2601.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jaime Rodriguez'.

Jaime Rodriguez
President
AFT-Oregon