

Submitter: Mary King

On Behalf
Of:

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

Measure: HB2601

I'm writing as an economist, grandparent and a PERS retiree from PSU, to urge you to pass HB 2601. The climate crisis is urgent, and Oregon must take a leadership position in combating it, as far too many other actors are shortsightedly and reprehensibly focused only business as usual.

We know that it may already be too late to avoid the 1.5 Celsius degree increase widely considered to be a critical threshold. In Oregon, we're already seeing the impact of extreme weather such as the 2021 Heat Dome, and the massive die-off in our forests, 2022's Firmageddon (<https://www.oregonlive.com/environment/2022/11/record-number-of-firs-dying-in-oregon-washington-in-what-experts-call-firmageddon.html>).

As an economist, I am very persuaded that the time to invest in fossil fuels, purely as a financial strategy, has passed. We should be investing in industries that can be expected to grow in the short, medium and long-term.

As a parent and grandparent of staunch Oregonians, I hope that we will do very much better by our children, grandchildren and planet than we have done. It's time to take what action we can! Please get our money out of fossil fuels!