

Submitter: Lynn Handlin

On Behalf  
Of:

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

Measure: HB2601

I strongly support HB 2601: Treasury Investment and Climate Protection Act. "Climate change represents not only an existential threat to humanity but also material financial risk to investors." (a quote from Morningstar report) . This rather absurd quote illustrates the fact that climate change impacts the economy. Also of course all of humanity, which is what "the economy" is about.

Climate change is no longer a future concern. We are already experiencing the impacts. Seeing the trees die in my yard and neighborhood due to the heat dome and drought. The glowing orange skies and horrendous smoke from wildfires, watching my daughter struggle to breathe from the smoke. I have been doing habitat restoration work along urban and suburban streams for years, and we were seeing a resurgence of wildlife including salmon and frogs, now I see in some of those streams declines in some species populations due to warming.

Now is the time to take real, serious action to halt this nightmare from getting worse. As a tax professional I often talk about retirement investments with my clients and many of those in PERS have been asking me how they can get out of that system because of the harm being done by the fossil fuel investments. This is bad for the environment, our communities, and, really a bad long term financial investment. Oregon tries to be a leader in fighting climate change but the State's investments counteract any good that the state is doing. This must stop. Now.

Thank you

Lynn Handlin