

Submitter: Jonathan Clark

On Behalf
Of:

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

Measure: HB2601

Dear Representatives Pham and Gamba, Senator Golden, and other sponsors,

Thank you for sponsoring this bill. Like many Oregonians, I care about the environment and how fossil fuel use is adversely affecting our State and our world.

We know the Climate Crisis is human-caused. Every year, our weather becomes more extreme and unpredictable. The world is experiencing megafires, megafloods, droughts, and rising oceans. Oregon has not been spared, and it's only beginning. We will soon be facing food scarcity and mass migrations as people are displaced by the effects of Climate Change.

When the State Treasurer invests retirement money into fossil fuel companies, they not only risk the long-term investments of Oregonians, as fossil fuels are phased out—they also make every Oregonian invested in PERS complicit in this filthy, immoral industry. No Treasurer should have this power—they must be accountable to the State Legislature. Oregonians deserve better.

I fully support this bill, and I ask that Oregon's legislature do everything they can in the 2023 session to accelerate the transition to 100% sustainability as soon as possible. We have a 7-year window to keep global warming below 1.5 degrees Celsius. We cannot wait until 2050 or even 2035 to reach a partial solution. This must be Oregon's top priority. Every State must do their part.