



February 17, 2023

To: House Committee on Emergency Mgmt, General Government, and Veterans

Dear Chair Grayber, Vice Chair Lewis, Rep. Thuy Tran, Rep. Conrad, Rep. Dexter, Rep. Evans, and Rep. James Hieb,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 2601. My name is Verónica Núñez, the Leadership and Advocacy Director at Adelante Mujeres—an organization based out of Washington County, Oregon, that provides holistic education and empowerment opportunities to marginalized Latina women and their families to ensure full participation and active leadership in the community. We serve more than 9,000 people every year.

We support HB 2601 because we know Oregon is a leader in the country toward a green future. This issue is important to us because one of our three central values at our organization is to love and respect the Earth. That's why in the past few years we've grown our commitment to environmental programming, educational awareness, and organizational-wide efforts to love and respect the Earth. We know that fossil fuels are harming our livelihoods and our planet.

PERS is the 12th largest US public pension fund and one of the World's Dominant Investors in Private Equity – private equity is a primary source of funds for the fossil fuel industry. This data is from 2021. Financial urgency and risk of the climate crisis on PERS requires no new fossil fuel investments and a phased exit from existing holdings. We hope the State of Oregon stands on the right side of history along with the tens of thousands of PERS beneficiaries – including all of Oregon's teacher's unions, with 66,000 members – along with 98 statewide organizations including racial justice groups, faith communities, adult and youth climate activists who make up the Divest Oregon coalition. The Chief Sponsors for the bill are Representatives Khanh Pham, Gamba, and Dexter and Senator Golden; there is a growing number of cosponsors.

On behalf of Adelante Mujeres, I strongly encourage you to support HB 2601, not only to promote the health and wellbeing of children and families today in Oregon, but the well-being and stability for future generations.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Verónica Núñez,

Leadership and Advocacy Director

Adelante Mujeres