

Submitter: Pat Kaczmarek
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB681

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of SB 681.

We are in a Climate Emergency. As a long time resident of Oregon, and a PERS recipient, I am concerned about my retirement funds being invested in fossil fuels. As someone who depends on the continued strength of PERS in order to pay my monthly bills this issue and SB 681 are of personal importance to me. Why should our leaders take unnecessary risks with the current and future income of the 400,000 Oregonians who depend on the payments from PERS? My belief is that we should not.

Fossil fuels are a threat to the future of our planet. Now is not the time to assist or invest in fossil fuel industries. On the contrary we should be investing in green energy, especially since solar is now the world's cheapest source of energy and renewable capacity is growing at an incredible speed. Its place in Oregon's energy profile reflects our state's support of renewables...not of carbon-based energy.

The Pause Act calls for no NEW investments in the fossil fuel industry for 5 years and there are plenty of alternative investments that are safe and secure.

Now is the time to be a climate hero. Please vote the Pause Act out of committee. And support this bill in a Senate vote this legislative session.