



March 18, 2025

Dear Chair, Co-Chair and Members of the Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue

The Douglas County Global Warming Coalition representing 450 residents in our rural community strongly supports the passage of Senate Bill 681, the Pause Act. This legislation calls for no new investments in the fossil fuel industry for five years.

Oregon has been a leader in the effort to fight climate change and the movement to a clean energy economy. However, investing in dirty fossil fuels diminishes the impact of the State goal to reduce emissions 90% by the year 2050. It is essential that the State exhibit an effective and consistent approach to this commitment.

While the reliability and benefits of fossil fuel investments are debatable, the devastating impacts of climate change are not. The costs incurred from deadly wildfires, unprecedented heat waves and loss of property more than offset any perceived monetary benefits that may or may not occur from fossil fuel investments. Further, we should ask ourselves: How can we measure in dollars and cents the pain of lives lost, homes burned to the ground and communities disrupted almost beyond repair? This is the moral component that must be considered when weighing future investments. To do otherwise is an abdication of responsible governance.

Future generations can look back on us and ask what was our response to the threat of climate change? Did we invest in a healthy and sustainable future or continue to listen to the voices of the past? Senate Bill 681 is a reasonable response to these questions, allowing the State to consider sustainable alternative investments, with an eye on what is best for ourselves and our children.

We strongly urge the passage of Senate Bill 681.

Sincerely,

Stuart Liebowitz on behalf of the Board of the Douglas County Global Warming Coalition

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