

Submitter: Janet Redmond

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2081

Members of the Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue,

I encourage you to vote no on HB2081.

The purpose of the PERS fund is to fund the future retirement benefit for the thousands of participating school and government workers. It should continue to be the responsibility of those managing this fund to manage and invest those funds prudently and grow those funds to support the required benefit payments. No other policy objective should be imposed.

To add a new set of requirements related to climate change removes the fiduciary responsibility to invest funds in such a manner to best achieve financial results. Current law already requires the OIC to balance risks, including those associated with a changing climate - adding the proposed requirement puts future financial returns at risk, which will impose increased costs of Oregonians for many years to come.

Climate science is not exact, attempts at predicting the future and impacts are evolving and in many cases, guesses are based on limited or incomplete data. These guesses have frequently been quite wrong. Forcing these guesses into the PERS fund unreasonably increases risks to Oregonians. Notably the authors requirement that "The Oregon Investment Council, jointly and individually, the State Treasurer and employees of the office of the State Treasurer shall be indemnified and held harmless by the State of Oregon from all claims and damages incurred pursuant to this section." demonstrates that the authors understand that forcing a focus on climate change into the PERS fund may not be the most financially prudent decision.

Please vote no.