



PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY

American Association of University Professors

Promoting Quality Higher Education – An Investment in Oregon's Future

28 January 2022

House Committee on Revenue
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street
Salem, OR 97301

RE: HB. 4115

Chair Nathanson, Vice Chairs Pham and Reschke, and members of the Committee:

For the record, my name is David Kinsella. I am a Professor in the Mark O. Hatfield School of Government at Portland State University. I am also the Vice President for Collective Bargaining for the PSU chapter of the American Association of University Professors. On behalf of our union of 1,200 faculty and academic professionals, many of whom are PERS members, I urge you to vote in support of HB 4115.

Climate change is creating momentous challenges for Oregonians. Last summer, in Portland, we endured record-shattering temperatures three days in a row, an extreme weather event that scientists agree would have been virtually impossible without global warming. Of the 116 deaths in Oregon caused by the heatwave, more than 60 percent were lost in Multnomah County. The toll on our innocent pets, livestock, wildlife, and marine life in the state is too awful to contemplate.

How is our money contributing to this crisis? We don't know. The Treasury only shares about half of its investment holdings on an annual basis on the Oregon Investment Council (OIC) website. It required 4 months of public record requests by our [Divest Oregon Coalition](#), as well as other public pressure, to get all the holdings. It should be easier.

HB 4115 will ensure that our Treasury releases information about these holdings, including investments in fossil fuel companies, along with any climate risk assessments. It will give Oregonians a tool to ensure our state is investing in ways that match our state's needs and values – from the climate to human rights to the energy transition. Transparency is at the heart of Oregon's climate fight. Please support this bill.

Respectfully,

David Kinsella
Vice President for Collective Bargaining