

Transparency Bill Testimony

My name is Anne Bryant and I am a Multnomah County PERS recipient and tax payer in this State since 1978, over forty years. I am deeply concerned about climate disaster all over our planet, and just a few examples of this crisis have already impacted Oregonians. Searing fires, lost homes and livelihoods, unbreathable smokey air, flooding leading to land slides due to burned out slopes, and let's not forget the heat dome of '21. How our tax dollars (and PERS funds) are invested is a matter of public record, and yet the Treasury makes only a part of this information available. Citizens should be able to see how the money is invested, especially if it is invested in fossil fuel corporations. I want the funds to be productive investments and NOT contribute to the climate crisis. Smart investors know that it is entirely possible for investments in clean and sustainable energy resources to perform equally to or even better than dirty energy resources. That is why I urge you to pass HB4115. This bill 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. It is also important to make transparent all risk assessment before any new investments are made.

Thank you for supporting HB4115. Anne Bryant, 97219