

Chair Nathanson and members of the House Revenue Committee,

Transparency is the spear that fights conspiracy and corruption. Making our investments transparent allows us as citizens to be informed in what our money is supporting. I know what funds my private retirement account is invested in. A state employee should be able to see where their PERS is invested. Money is power and where we choose to invest holds consequence.

Oregon needs to invest in my future, and my future will depend a lot on how much we continue to invest in fossil fuels. Every dollar invested into fossil fuels depreciates my future another degree. What good is a robust retirement account if my home burns to the ground? Losing my home to climate disaster is all too real. A rare summer dry windstorm after Labor Day devastated Talent and Phoenix just north of me. As we pour money into dirty investment we will watch as these events become more common.

Oregon's state policy is designed to phase out fossil fuel investments. Our state doesn't have fossil fuel giants. Let's invest in the green products Oregon produces instead of the damaging industries of another place. Here in Ashland we don't have coal, but we do have True South Solar, Unbound Solar, Piccadilly Cycles and Ashland Electric Bikes.

State investors may say that it is their moral obligation to seek the best return on investment for their client. We need our treasury to acknowledge the power it has with where it places its money, and the moral responsibility it has to make sure that those investments embody their client's wishes.

I wholeheartedly support the passage of the Investment Transparency Act, HB 4115

Dylan Hinson
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