

Submitter: Anthony Pepitone  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Revenue  
Measure: HB4115

As a PERS member, I care how my retirement savings are being invested. I am a special education teacher who works with elementary grade students, and I find it distressing that part of my future compensation derives from investments in petrochemical industries that are exacerbating climate disruption. Global warming is irreversible until developed and developing countries transition to a zero carbon economy. Moreover, investors who care about the future must fund the many companies whose products and services are making this global transition possible.

How can I prepare my young students for the future in good conscience while simultaneously financing the creation of an increasingly uninhabitable planet through my retirement contributions?

In any case, PERS members (and taxpayers in general) should have access to how exactly tax dollars are being used to fund PERS. Increasing the transparency of such a system will minimize the possibility of waste, fraud and abuse. Moreover, the disclosures of this public information will have a democratizing effect on PERS through heightened accountability and community oversight.

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 energy transition to human rights.

Am I certain that the greenhouse effect is real? Yes, I am certain that the greenhouse effect is real. For this reason among others, we must pass HB4115.