

Submitter: Adin Becker  
On Behalf Of: We All Rise  
Committee: House Committee On Revenue  
Measure: HB4115

I unequivocally support HB 4115.

As it abundantly clear, the entire world is in the midst of a terrifying climate crisis. Oregon, which is particularly vulnerable to drought, heat and wildfires, is no exception. We have a collective moral responsibility to take every available step to mitigate our contributions to climate degradation and protect the livelihoods of all Oregonians.

Key to functional, democratic governance is transparency. As public servants, elected officials and affiliated staff should ensure that members of the public and legislators are aware of all financial decisions currently being made on their behalf. Transparency should not be a contentious issue; it is the minimum that should be expected when people's lives are at stake. Indeed, lacking transparency is equivalent to a betrayal of trust vis-à-vis Oregonians whose values the State may be failing to uphold.

The Treasury Transparency Bill is essential. If, as the Treasury wrote in October 2020, the legislature is expected to take responsibility for phasing out investment in fossil fuels, they must have the requisite data available to make informed decisions. Lengthy public records requests are an insufficient stopgap solution to the present information deficit. We need to know what is putting us at risk and take the necessary steps to secure a better future. Transparency is apolitical; everyone benefits from increased access to information.

Please, take initiative and help us create a better, more democratic Oregon for all. My own organization, We All Rise, has committed to climate neutrality. Our project portfolio supports the development of accessible transportation infrastructure that reduces reliance on single-occupancy vehicles, promotes equity in public and private spaces, and centers frontline workers most exposed to climate change. We understand that promoting a more sustainable, inclusive future can be profitable. The same can be true for the Oregon Treasury. It's time to take stock of the State's holding so that we can transition to a portfolio that supports a sustainable, equitable, and profitable future.

Let's pass this bill.