

Submitter: Ben Stickney
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure: HB4115

The climate emergency is responsible for direct threats to the lives and livelihoods of Oregonians as well as to the state's economy. At this advanced stage of climate change, our investments must be transparent in order to guarantee that proper risk assessment for climate effects is taking place and that our investments are not exacerbating a crisis that took the lives of more than 100 Oregonians in the past year alone.

As a taxpayer living in Oregon, how is my money contributing to this crisis? I don't know. The Treasury only shares about half of their investment holdings on an annual basis on the Oregon Investment Council (OIC) website. It took the Divest Oregon coalition 4 months of public records requests and public pressure to get all the holdings. It should be easier.

These investment holdings are PUBLIC INFORMATION and should be treated as such. The Treasury is in possession of the data and should provide them once a year.

At this time, it is critical that the state's investments be used to build economic resilience, protecting Oregonians from worsening disasters that take life and livelihood. 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.

I urge you to pass HB 4115.

Thank you for hearing my testimony.