



29 January 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in regards to Senate Bill 541, which mandates the Oregon Investment Council to create, publish, and implement policies that incorporate human-rights analysis into its investment choices. I fully support this bill and urge you to pass it.

In an era of whipsaw inequality and the rise of right-wing populism—and in some instances, even fascism—human rights stand as a vital bulwark. When pleas for ethics and morality fall on deaf ears, economic muscle can nevertheless have an effect.

Developing and enforcing policies that embed human-rights standards into investment decisions is a positive step in the right direction and could have a demonstration effect on other states that are considering similar legislation. To *not* do so, opens the door to supporting entities that abuse human rights and undercut democracy. It is hard to imagine that taxpaying Oregonians want their money going toward human-rights abusers here in the United States or around the world.

My own research and writing on human rights issues—in places like Brazil, China, and the United States—reinforces my deep belief that our elected officials here in Oregon need to stand up for human rights at every turn and, whenever possible, swerve our collective resources in an ethical direction. Please support Senate Bill 541 and help turn it into law.

Thank you for your consideration, and for all your hard work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J Boykoff". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jules Boykoff
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