

House Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 2601. As a community member engaged in environmental justice advocacy and a grateful PERS beneficiary, I care about how my retirement savings are being invested.

In 2020, Governor Brown signed an Executive Order, directing State of Oregon agencies to take action to reduce and regulate greenhouse gas emissions. Oregon's past legislative sessions brought several climate initiatives focused on clean energy and our local jurisdictions have spent valuable time and money committing to green energy and a more just future. The last few years have shown Oregonians first-hand how climate change impacts our communities – with heat domes, forest fires, and increased environmental hazards. In spite of Oregon's commitment to clean energy, our Treasury, which props billions of dollars in fossil fuel investments, has not been transparent where money is invested. Oregon's investments should match our clean energy goals and not bankroll the dying industry of fossil fuels.

I strongly support HB 2601: The Treasury Investment and Climate Protection Act because I need the Oregon Treasury to protect PERS and the rest of the Treasury's investments as we transition towards a green economy. If government is serious about climate emergency, there is no reason our dollars should be funding fossil fuels. I ask for Oregon to be accountable to its own goals in response to the climate emergency.

Thank you for your support of HB 2601.

Sincerely,

J'reyesha Brannon
PERS Member
Portland, Multnomah County