

Susheela Jayapal



Multnomah County Commissioner, District 2

February 15, 2023

House Committee On Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: HB 2061

Committee Chair Dacia Grayber, Vice-Chair Rick Lewis, Vice-Chair Thuy Tran, and Members:

I am writing to you today to urge your support for House Bill 2601 (HB 2601), which provides for an end to new fossil fuel investments, and a phased divestment from existing holdings.

The effects of human-caused global warming are happening now, are irreversible for people alive today, and will worsen as long as humans add greenhouse gasses to the atmosphere. In Oregon we are experiencing extreme temperatures, widespread fires, and projected increases in flooding - all manifesting the seriousness of the crisis. Because of immense climate change, reliance on fossil fuels for state investments not only is contrary to Oregon's stated values around countering climate change but is also financially irresponsible. We simply cannot afford to put resources into a system that is inherently unstable.

As local and state leaders, it is our duty and responsibility to ensure an environment that is healthy for all Oregonians. Climate change also disproportionately impacts people of color and lower-income communities. A continued investment in the fossil fuel industry ignores these harms and supports a system that is exacerbating climate injustice.

Cities and counties across the country, including Multnomah County and Portland, have divested from the fossil fuel industry. With Oregon following suit, our state can be a leader that aligns with our climate forward values. This is a feasible approach that puts Oregon on the right track for environmental justice and responsible financial investments.

Our health and livability, as well as the protection of state resources, depend on it.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susheela Jayapal".

Susheela Jayapal