



March 2, 2023

To: Chair Dacia Grayber, Vice-Chair Rick Lewis, Vice-Chair Thuy Tran, and members of the House Committee On Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans

Re: [HB 2601](#) - **The Treasury Investment and Climate Protection Act (TICPA)- Support**

My name is Joel Iboa, I live in Eugene, and I am the Executive Director of the Oregon Just Transition Alliance, a movement of communities facing environmental racism, climate change, and economic exploitation.

Oregon Just Transition Alliance (OJTA) strongly supports HB 2601, which protects Oregonians' public pensions and our environment. Transition to a clean energy economy is inevitable. As extreme climate events plague the Pacific Northwest, our communities must transition off fossil fuels to avoid the worst impacts of these disasters. The Treasury must stop delaying the inevitable by undermining Oregon's legislation to transition to a green economy.

Continued fossil fuel investments in the Oregon Treasury is a risky move—both for workers and for our environment. Treasury managers must protect all of Oregon's investments for the long term, including public employee retirement funds such as PERS. Moving our public funds to safer, greener investments opportunities is common sense.

Allowing the OST to continue business-as-usual is costing the state \$4-10 billion in the past decade, according to [Risky Business Report](#). Not acting urgently will expose the portfolio to stranded assets and related losses in value.

Other state pensions are also recognizing this risk. For example, a recent study from the Colorado Public Employees' Retirement Association finds what we have found in Oregon: the Colorado pension fund <QUOTE> "could have earned an additional 21.8%, or \$4,161, for each of its members from 2012 to 2022 if it had divested all its fossil fuel stocks in favor of the rest of the portfolio." <UNQUOTE>

The leading researcher stated: <QUOTE> "While it's true that oil and gas stocks had a banner year over the past 12 months thanks to the Russia–Ukraine conflict, even taking this highwater mark for their stocks into account, over the past 10 years oil and gas was the worst-performing sector from a total returns perspective." <UNQUOTE>

Oregon Just Transition Alliance knows that investing in fossil fuel infrastructure has disproportionate impacts on frontline communities in Oregon. Acting now will make a significant impact for communities and our environment. The challenges we face are connected, and so are the solutions. We must transition from an economy based on exploitation and extraction to one based on care and clean, affordable energy. The legislature has the power to end new investments in fossil fuels immediately.

To aid the OST toward more responsible action, we urge you to support HB 2601, the Treasury Investment and Climate Protection Act (TICPA).

Sincerely,

Joel Iboa  
Executive Director, Oregon Just Transition Alliance  
Eugene, OR