

Submitter: Patricia Hine
On Behalf Of: 350 Eugene
Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB681

Dear Senate Committee Chair and Members of the Committee on Finance and Revenue,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of SB 681.

I am a retired Navy officer and college instructor, a mother, wife, organic farmer and a PERS retiree. I live in rural Lane County and am lead organizer with 350 Eugene, a climate justice non-profit advocating for a swift and just transition off fossil fuels due to the accelerating climate and biodiversity emergencies caused by burning fossil fuels.

The importance of acting boldly to curtail investments in fossil fuels can not be overstated. If you believe in science, you know we have wasted decades delaying taking steps that will actually ween our society and economy off fossil fuels. We are now in extremely dangerous territory, with floods, heatwaves, wildfires, and catastrophic loss of habitat and biodiversity, with no end in sight. Unless we ACT.

As you know, extreme efforts to despoil and exploit the natural world on which we all depend will continue unabated with the new federal administration bent on enriching the few, richest among us at the expense of future generations, and perhaps civilization itself. That is why states must pass strong policy to protect Oregonians investments, lives and property. That is what I am asking you to do.

The Pause Act is but a small step Oregonians demand to put our policies in line with science and common sense to avert the worst effects of worsening planetary heating. The legislature should act to pass the bill NOW.

Oregonians have a commitment to a clean, safe, green future. You continue our leadership in environmental progress and pass the Pause Act to preserve a stable climate future and bio-diverse, rich landscape for generations to come. Thank you.