

I am writing in strong support of SB 681. Thank you for this opportunity.

I have been a member of PERS since 1987, and I, along with 400,000 other Oregonians, depend on the current and future financial health of PERS for my livelihood and continued ability to contribute to the economy and vitality of my native state.

In addition to being a member of PERS, I am very concerned about the economic impact of climate change and the need to reduce dependence on fossil fuels. It is NOT the time to invest in fossil fuel industries. Private investments in fossil fuels are simply not sustainable and therefore jeopardize the health of our Treasury portfolio. I expect our state Treasury to invest responsibly and to make investments that are consistent with Oregon state energy goals. We should be investing more in alternative, renewable energy sources, NOT carbon-based energy sources.

The Pause Act is a thoughtful and reasonable call for no NEW investments in the fossil fuel industry for only 5 years. For heaven's sake, there are plenty of alternative investments that are safe, secure and intelligent.

Please vote the Pause Act out of committee. Thank you for your support of SB 681.

Sincerely,

Patricia Kramer
Emeritus Professor of Neurology, OHSU
House District number as HD 22