

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

I am here today because I am a PERS recipient and worked for over twenty years at the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. I count on the continued strength of PERS in order to pay my monthly bills, along with approximately 400,000 other Oregonians. Why should our state money managers take unnecessary risks with the current and future income of PERS recipients? My belief is that we should not.

The Pause Act calls for no NEW investments in the fossil fuel industry for five years. There are plenty of alternative investments that are safe and secure. With the future of oil now on a collision course with the future of our planet, it is not the time to assist or invest in fossil fuel industries. On the contrary, we should be investing in green energy, especially since solar is now the world's cheapest source of energy and renewable capacity is growing at an incredible speed.

I worked as a legal policy analyst in DEQ's Water Quality Division. Our state has invested millions of dollars in resources to protect salmon and many other aquatic species that are dying as a result of rivers and streams that are warmer and increasingly affected by algal blooms and other pollutants that thrive as a result of climate change. The state is throwing good money after bad by continuing to invest in private equity funds that promote the exact harms multiple state agencies are working to mitigate. I respectfully urge you to bring Oregon's investment practices in line with its stated goals to restore, maintain and enhance the quality Oregon's air, land and water.

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

Sincerely,
Jane Hickman, Corvallis, OR
Member of Third Act Oregon
Voter in House District 16, Senate District 8