

Submitter: Michelle Nicola
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB681

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

My name is Michelle Nicola and I am an employee of Portland Public School District, a member of Portland Association of Teachers, and a deeply concerned mother and citizen who strongly believes that divesting from fossil fuels is the right choice.

As someone who depends on the continued strength of PERS in order to pay my monthly bills this issue and SB 681 are of personal importance to me. Why should our leaders take unnecessary risks with the current and future income of the 400,000 Oregonians who depend on the payments from PERS? My belief is that we should not.

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. Its place in Oregon's energy profile reflects our state's support of renewables...not of carbon-based energy.

The Pause Act calls for no NEW investments in the fossil fuel industry for only 5 years and there are plenty of alternative investments that are safe and secure.

As a mother, I am deeply concerned about the world my son and his generation will inherit. What will their quality of life be? How will they survive? As a citizen, I am concerned for the wellbeing of our community: I know that continued investment in fossil fuels will only further damage the already suffering ecosystem which we all need to survive. As you can see, to me this is an issue of survival. It is important that we act NOW.

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

Sincerely,

Michelle Nicola, MAT
Portland, Oregon