

Submitter: Deborah Lev

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB681

I am writing in support of the Pause Act, SB 681. I am a PERS retiree; my daughter is a working PERS member. I rely on my pension for living expenses and am concerned about the health of the PERS fund. Imagining my daughter's retirement years, my concern includes the longer term stability of the portfolio.

I question the level of OPERF investment in the fossil fuels sector as these investments represent increasing financial risk. The growing cost of extreme weather events is now being acknowledged as global markets step away from greenhouse gas emitting fossil fuels. As sustainable energy source production such as wind and solar is now less expensive than coal, gas or oil, we are likely to see fossil fuel investments lose their value and become stranded assets. Investing in private funds heavily laden with these risky investments is particularly troublesome as the contracts are locked in for a decade or longer. There will be no opportunity for the Treasury to pivot as the values fall.

Currently, over half of my pension funds are invested in private funds, over targeted amounts and way above the private fund investment of other large pension funds. This seems like an appropriate time to pause these investments in private funds with a heavy concentration of fossil fuels. Please join me in support of SB 681 to protect my pension benefits and those of the next generation.