

Submitter: Ray Perry

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB681

I am writing to support the PAUSE act. Climate change has been hitting Oregon incredibly hard; heat waves, wildfires, and more are dangerous to the health and safety of Oregon citizens, especially to those with health conditions that are made worse by smoke and heat (including myself) and those without reliable access to air conditioning (also including myself). I want Oregon to be a safe place for disabled and lower-income residents, and climate change is making this goal difficult to achieve.

Furthermore, private funds are not a stable, reliable investment; returns have been down and the market is becoming saturated. I am very concerned about both the health and the economic impacts of climate extremes. Our Treasury should choose sustainable investments that protect the portfolio and the planet – not fossil fuels, not predatory private investment firms, and not companies that greenwash the environmental impact of their activities. I expect the Treasury to make investments that are consistent with Oregon state energy goals. Oregonians are all too tired of drought and wildfires, and the Treasury has an obligation to protect its citizens.

The Pause Act simply calls for no new investments in the fossil fuel industry for 5 years. This is a small ask! There are plenty of alternative investments that are future-oriented.

While I would like Oregon's net zero plan to be stronger than it is, it's a step in the right direction. Let's get going on a path to reduce carbon emissions by ending more investment in the biggest carbon emitter!

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

Sincerely,
Ray Perry
Portland, OR