

Submitter: John O'Donoghue
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB681

Thank you for this opportunity to express my support for SB 681.

I am a retired educator and currently a recipient of an Oregon PERS pension. Given that my pension is important to the security of my family and me, I believe that it is imperative that the PERS board invest its funds wisely.

However, I also believe that we have a broader responsibility to society at large to act wisely to combat climate change, a danger that we are increasingly experiencing in real time in the storms, fires, floods, and other disasters that are occurring with greater frequency all around the world. People of my age will probably not see the worst of what is to come from climate change. However, we owe it to our children and grandchildren, to the generations to come, to act and do all we can right now to mitigate this threat in any way possible.

I speak as a lay person and not a lawyer. My reading of the proposed bill tells me that there is nothing in it that weakens the investment portfolio of the PERS system. At the same time it contributes positively to the need to reduce carbon emissions.

I do not know how future generations will look back at this age and assess with hindsight our action or inaction as we face the climate crisis. I am convinced that this bill, SB681, contributes its own small way to the major change that is required of us today. I respectfully urge you, our legislators, to pass this bill into law.

Sincerely,

John O'Donoghue