



March 18, 2025

Dear Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue,

On behalf of Eugene Springfield Interfaith EarthKeepers, I am writing to express support for SB 681, also known as the PAUSE Act.

As people from various faith traditions, we care deeply about creation, and we share a love for our neighbors, local and global. We are very concerned about climate extremes – and the economic impact of climate extremes. Climate change is already disproportionately impacting the most vulnerable in society, the poor, marginalized communities, and the youngest and oldest among us. It is already projected that the number of climate refugees will increase exponentially in the coming decades. We also recognize the mental health challenges that many people are increasingly experiencing around climate change and other environmental crises. We strongly believe that our tax dollars should not be funding climate disasters.

Furthermore, we value the hard work of teachers and other hard working public servants. More than 400,000 Oregonians and their families depend on PERS for their retirement. We don't want to entrust their future to the fossil fuel industry, which has lied to us for decades and caused huge injury to our planet – while continuing to spread lies and disinformation. Private investments in fossil fuels are not a stable, reliable investment. We expect our state Treasury to invest responsibly and with future beneficiaries in mind. Our Treasury can 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 at the expense of people and our beautiful, life-giving planet. We expect the Oregon State Treasury to protect its citizens and the ecosystems they depend on.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to Oregon's future. We appreciate your consideration and look forward to seeing HB 3365 advance through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

Britni Cacan  
Eugene Springfield Interfaith EarthKeepers