

March 18, 2025

Dear Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue,

I am an educator, a PERS member, a taxpayer, and a member of Eugene/Springfield Interfaith Earthkeepers. I am writing to express support for SB 681, also known as the PAUSE Act.

Like my colleagues, I became a teacher because I wanted to make a difference. My hard working colleagues as well as retired teacher friends and I have long settled for a career that pays a relatively low salary believing that our good benefits help to balance it out. However, private investments in fossil fuels are not a stable, reliable investment. We deserve to have our retirement funds protected from risky fossil fuel investments that are likely to become stranded assets.

Furthermore, I think all Oregonians can agree that we want a healthy future for our children. Over the past several years, I have experienced multiple days in September during which my students were unable to go outside for recess because the air was unhealthy to breathe due to wildfire smoke. I never experienced this as a child growing up in rural western Oregon, and as you probably know, the recent increase in large wildfires is partially due to climate change induced drought. This will only get worse if we continue with business as usual. I am very worried about the future my students are inheriting. I believe that all children, including those who have yet to be born, deserve safety and stability free from the worst climate disasters.

I expect the Oregon State Treasury to protect its citizens, especially the most vulnerable, and the ecosystems they depend on. By implementing a 5-year moratorium on new and renewed fossil fuel investments, the PAUSE Act is a step in the right direction.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to Oregon's future generations and retirees. I look forward to seeing HB 3365 advance through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

Britni Cacan