

Chair Meek, Vice-Chair McLain, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jenifer Schramm, co-lead of Divest Oregon, testifying in support of HB 2081 A. Divest Oregon is a grassroots, statewide coalition of over 100 organizations. Our members include all of the education labor unions in the state, youth leaders, climate and racial justice groups, and faith communities.

HB 2081 A is a step forward. While we would like to see a more comprehensive plan, HB 2081 A does acknowledge the urgent need for the Treasury to take every possible action to reduce investment risks associated with a rapidly changing climate.

The Treasurer's HB 2081 A and Divest Oregon's SB 681, The Pause Act, are complementary. HB 2081 A embraces an emissions-reduction goal for the Treasury portfolio. The Pause Act focuses on a critical component of reaching an emissions-reduction goal by imposing a five-year moratorium on new investment in private funds supporting the fossil fuel industry. To be clear, neither bill has any divestment provision. Both bills use a climate risk lens in considering PERS portfolio investments with the aim of protecting beneficiaries' financial interests. Both bills recognize that the increasing frequency and severity of extreme weather events pose significant risks to infrastructure, operations, and supply chains in multiple economic sectors reflected in the portfolio. Both bills acknowledge the need to act to ameliorate the systemic risk of climate chaos to the PERS portfolio.

Divest Oregon supports HB 2081 A's acknowledgement that Treasury investments impact all Oregonians and we need to act urgently to safeguard those investments from current and future risks due to the rapidly changing climate.