

I'm Taylor Hawke, from San Rafael. I'm speaking on behalf of 350, my children and grandchildren, and all future generations. I'm standing to address the broader context and urgency of why we are here today, and why we are requesting that you divest from all FF stock.

From the latest science, we now know that the climate crisis is the mother of all global threats—the greatest economic, security, social, environmental, and health issue of our time. Nothing else comes close. Leaders like UN Sec Gen. Ban Ki-Moon, climate scientist James Hansen, Al Gore, Bill McKibben, Senators Boxer and Sanders, and many others have said: this is a planetary emergency. Right now.

Everything in the world, and our children's future, depend on how we respond now—in this brief window of time—to the escalating climate emergency. The monumental challenges we face do not allow for half measures, they demand BOLD leadership and aggressive action, from everyone and every organization, in every way possible. And I call on you to provide that kind of leadership in Marin County.

MCERA's investment policy requires action on this topic because of the time sensitivity of climate change. Your policy asks, "is the issue time sensitive?" Not only is action on climate change time sensitive, if we do not act now, then there will be few planetary resources to invest in later. What good is a pension fund on a dead planet?

When considering Divestment initiatives, MCERA policy also encourages you to undertake constructive engagement with companies being considered. But coal, oil and gas companies are not acting to mitigate the effects of climate change. In fact, they're more likely to hire pseudo-scientists to claim that global warming is a hoax. Last year,

Exxon Mobil CEO Rex Tillerson asked the world, “What good is it to save the planet if humanity suffers?” Think about that. Constructive engagement is, at best, a waste of time.

Your policy also says to consider whether pursuing the divestment initiative will have a negative or neutral impact on your portfolio. As we heard earlier, the Aperio Group study concluded that divestment from fossil fuels is not likely to hurt portfolio performance, but likely would actually increase return on investment.

I urge you to divest from all fossil fuel stocks, to preserve your portfolio, and to preserve a healthy planet for our children, and for all future generations. I also request that MCERA hold an informational session about the real impacts of divestment (like the SF Retirement board did). If you are unsure about such actions, ask your kids and grandkids.

To conclude: As Bill McKibben says: If it’s wrong to wreck the planet, it’s wrong to profit from wrecking the planet. Thank you for acting, and for leading..