

**ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
FIFTY-SECOND SENATE
26th SESSION
12 APRIL 2023**

**RESOLUTION #5208
SUSTAINABLE INVESTMENT FUTURE**

SPONSORED BY: Haydyn Deason, ASCSU Chief of Staff; Alex Silverhart, ASCSU Director of Health; Jillian Cook, ASCSU Director of Finance; Grace Crangle, ASCSU Director of Marketing; Omar Soliman, ASCSU Deputy Director of Sustainability; Adrian Salazar, Chair of DEI Affairs Committee and PRC Senator

WRITTEN BY: Riley Ruff, CSU Senior; Kenneth Kinneer, ASCSU Director of Environmental Affairs; Rachel Jacks, ASCSU Environmental Affairs Department Intern

ENDORSED BY: Hayden Taylor, Senator for the College of Liberal Arts; Nora Aslan, Internal Affairs Committee Chair; Sammy Trout, University Affairs Committee Chair and Senator for the College of Liberal Arts; Ellie Lutz, Senator for the Warner College of Natural Resources and Vice Chair of the Internal Affairs Committee; Mia Ritter, Budgetary Affairs Chair and Native American Cultural Center Senator; Ruairi Low, Accessibility Officer, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Affairs Committee, Senator, Student Disability Center; Ava McCall, Senator, Women and Gender Advocacy Center; Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Affairs Committee; University Affairs Committee; Meaghan Liebe, Senator, Warner College of Natural Resources; Daniel Scott Perez, Associate Senator, College of Liberal Arts; Morgan Wright, Senator, Natural Sciences; Graham Kelly, Senator, Natural Sciences; Dory Schmidt, Senator, Natural Sciences; Hania Nini, Senator, Natural Sciences; McAllister Johnson, Senator, College of Health and Human Science; Caroline Kramer, Senator, College of Health and Human Sciences; Dane Dinnsen, Senator, College of Business; Nora Aslan, Chair of Internal Affairs Committee, Senator, Pride Resource Center; Justin Melka, Senator, College of Liberal Arts

ABSTRACT:

This resolution calls on ASCSU Senate to support fossil fuel divestment efforts at Colorado State University and on the University to make tangible steps toward the full divestment from fossil fuels.

WHEREAS

It is undeniable that the burning of fossil fuels is responsible for the climate crisis. According to the 2022 International Panel on Climate Change report, "climate change is already causing widespread disruption in every region in the world with just 1.1 degrees C (2 degrees F) of warming." The same report also warns that the world is set to reach the 1.5°C level within the next two decades, leading to global natural disasters without intervention; and,

WHEREAS

Over the last decade, we have seen an exponential increase in the frequency and severity of global natural disasters, ranging from recent devastating flooding in Bangladesh to severe wildfires in the Western United States. The only way to prevent this is drastic cuts in carbon emissions; and,

WHEREAS

These impacts are evident in our local communities. For example, the 2020 Cameron Peak fire threatened student's homes, health, and personal well-being. According to the EPA, "more precipitation will be

expected to fall as rain rather than snow in most areas—reducing the extent and depth of snowpack.” As a result, Fort Collins is likely to see a water shortage, as the snowpacks that feed Horsetooth, and other local water reservoirs decline; and,

WHEREAS

Many higher education institutions including Harvard, Princeton, Oregon State, etc. have made divestment commitments. A full list of institutions can be found at divestmentdatabase.org; and,

WHEREAS

The University’s Courageous Strategic Plan denotes under Metric 3.1.a.2: “increased campus and community understanding and engagement regarding climate change.” The ratification of this resolution would align with the CST’s goals; and,

WHEREAS

The University has made immense progress in its sustainability efforts and strives to promote sustainable practices and a culture of environmental awareness in the campus community. CSU strives to be consistently recognized as a leading university in sustainability, both in campus infrastructure and education; and,

WHEREAS

The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Ranking System (STARS) report criteria require “positive sustainability investments” and that “investment holdings [be made] available to the public on at least an annual basis.”; and,

WHEREAS

Extensive research conducted by the Divest CSU Coalition found that the University holds at minimum \$7 million in direct fossil fuel investments. This greatly contradicts the University’s CST goals, principles, and contributes to the global climate crisis at hand and,

WHEREAS

The Divest CSU petition has so far received over 500 signatures of which a majority belong to current Colorado State University students; so,

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED

That Colorado State University, here also referred to as the University, publicly discloses its investment information, achieving portfolio transparency. The investment website is made comprehensible to students and the greater Fort Collins community, including an annual report of the University’s holdings and their amounts, and should be updated on a yearly basis; and,

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED

That the University must publicly disclose in good faith the monetary amount of donations it receives from fossil fuel companies and corporations, the subsidiaries of fossil fuel companies and corporations, and organizations founded by fossil fuel companies or corporations on a yearly basis; and

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED

That the University commit to no future investments or holdings in fossil fuel development and extraction by the year 2025 that the University must publicly release a statement indicating their commitment to no new investments in the fossil fuel industry from the year 2025 onward; and,

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED

That the University will make no future investments in the fossil fuel industry in the year 2025 or thereafter; and,

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED

That the University's controllable investments in the fossil fuel industry or fossil fuel holdings be comprised of no more than three-percent of the University's total holdings by the year 2027; and,

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED

That the University reinvests all assets formerly invested in fossil fuels into a diverse socially and environmentally responsible portfolio that includes renewable energy; and,

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED

That the University reaffirm and solidify its commitment to a sustainable future by continuing to fund environmental research and sustainability education; and,

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED

That the members of the Executive Branch of the Associated Students of Colorado State University with vested interest in sustainability will collaborate with the University's Administration to work to achieve this resolution's goals; and,

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED

That the Associated Students of Colorado State University call upon the University to abide by what is hereby resolved in keeping with the will of the student body and the University's own principles; and,

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED

That a copy of this legislation be forwarded to Amy Parsons, Colorado State University President; Tony Frank, Chancellor, CSU System (UA); Dr. Blanche Hughes, Vice President for Student Affairs; and Tonie Miyamoto, Division of Student Affairs Director of Communications and Sustainability.

25-2-3

12 APRIL 2023

PASSAGE

DATE


PRESIDENT ROBERT LONG

4/14/2023
DATE

TAGS: divestment, climate, environment, sustainability, fossil fuels, investments, green commitment, green community