

Winston Friedman
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Northern Oregon Climate Action Now
SOCAN
Confronting Climate Change

Comments to Ashland City Council Study Session

September 15, 2014

Thank you for considering the Resolution in Support of Fossil Fuel Divestment that is before you at this meeting. I would like to offer a few thoughts for your consideration.

The impacts of climate change and fossil fuel extraction are the probably the most pressing environmental and human issue facing this planet. Historically, the City of Ashland has acknowledged its part in supporting a future where all citizens can live healthy lives.

Yet, for all the work that has been done on energy conservation and sustainability, little real progress has been made.

At the root of this crisis is a powerful force: major corporations, particularly fossil fuel companies and their investors dedicated to preserving the status quo to generate short-term profits. In order to limit and mitigate the consequences of climate change and resource extraction, and build a more sustainable and just world, it is imperative that we challenge the fossil fuel companies and the model of investing that allows them and other bad corporate actors to flourish.

This is our chance to be on the right side and add our voice to the international debate. Even if we do everything "right" in Ashland but did nothing to influence the greater world we would be coming up short in our responsibility to protect our local resources. This is our chance to make our voice heard not only locally, but in the globally on what we want our future to look like. I and SOCAN encourage you to move the Resolution in Support of Fossil Fuel Divestment forward. Let's take a stand and work together to create change for the next generations.