

Dear President Hennessy and Stanford Board of Trustees:

As an undergraduate and graduate student in the School of Earth Sciences and the Earth Systems program, Stanford helped me develop a life-long passion for sustainability, social justice, and a commitment to building a safe, clean, and better world for current and future generations. With the support of this world-class education, I have spent the last four years since graduation building a meaningful movement for food justice in East Palo Alto with a local grassroots non-profit organization. This work, and my because of it my day to day life, is incredibly meaningful. Every day I have the chance to live my values in the world, and every day I am faced with the challenge of making incredibly difficult decisions about how best to live those values. I recognize Stanford is faced with that same decision when considering divesting from fossil fuels. But I believe that with your leadership Stanford will make the right decision--one that leads to full divestment from fossil fuels, and maintains the hope that a better future can be created here and now.

As the students initiating this campaign have clearly articulated:

Climate change is disastrous. The burning of fossil fuels feeds climate change, which commits us to localized and widespread storms, floods, and droughts that seriously damage economies through lost infrastructure, lost productivity, and lost wages. These damaged economies, immediately and long-term, cause severe social injury, a result incompatible with Stanford's goals.

Divestment is effective. Thus far, attempts to steer energy companies toward cleaner energy production have been effective at only a token level. Divestment makes a motivating moral and practical statement. Stanford's voice will support political and business leaders in promoting cleaner energy development. Further, as others follow Stanford's lead, there will be an economic force devaluing fossil fuels and encouraging clean energy production.

Divestment is fiscally sound. Ambitious divestment over a period of up to five years allows the Endowment to make sound market decisions while exercising sound climate decisions. California has already codified a 33% by 2020 Renewables Portfolio Standard, and as such legislative and market forces develop, early divestment is prudent to avoid being stuck with a stranded "carbon bubble" asset.

Stanford should lead. Because Stanford has the academic stature and financial clout to make a strong and motivating statement to decision-makers around the nation and the world, and because divestment is fiscally sound and socially beneficial, Stanford should take the strong step of defunding fossil fuels and investing in clean energy.

Please divest from the fossil fuel industry.

Sincerely,

K Nicole Wires

Earth Systems

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