

Joint Committee on Public Service Hearing 11/18/19

Hello, my name is Amalia Hochman and I am here to support the fossil fuel divest bills, H.3662, S.636, and H.2220. I am 17 years old, a senior at Somerville High School, and one of the leaders of the Boston Climate Strike. This year, I should be enjoying my senior year but instead I had to finish up my classes online so that I can work full time on ending the climate crisis. I have no guarantee of a livable future, I had hopes and dreams that are impossible to achieve now because everyday I see another piece of my future disappearing due to the latest climate disaster. I am scared for what's to come, I want to go to college, I want to get a job, and when the time is right, I would love to retire; but I cannot not do that if we do not divest our retirement boards and systems from fossil fuels. So here we are, we've hit my generation, the one that could save us all or the one that could be the last. I owe it to every single young child to fight as hard as I can to make sure that not only will they get a livable climate to grow up in but that they won't have to drop everything to fight for it like we have. My childhood and my adolescence has been stolen by this crisis. I need you to take this as seriously as I am. I am fighting for our water, our food, our homes, for the people we love, and for our lives. We need to divest, and we need to divest now. I am fighting every single day to make sure that all of us have a stable climate to live in and I hope that all of you can stand in this fight with me, shoulder to shoulder, so that we will win. Will you divest our retirement systems and boards from fossil fuels and help me fight for our lives, or will you let my generation die out before we get the chance to fully grow up, have a job, and retire. Which side are you on?