

A Resolution Encouraging Washington State Audubon Chapters to Divest from Their Investments
with Companies that Produce Energy from Fossil Fuels

Whereas, global climate change is a scientific reality and is accepted as being caused by human activity by 97% of all climate scientists, and

Whereas, climate change is already dramatically affecting bird habitats by drying up wetlands, raising sea levels which increases erosion of shorelines, reducing winter snowpack in Western North American mountains, melting Arctic sea ice in summer, and warming and acidification of the northern Pacific Ocean, and

Whereas, carbon dioxide (CO₂) in the Earth's atmosphere has been identified as the primary greenhouse gas, and the accumulation of CO₂ traps heat close to the Earth's surface and is directly related to the warming of the oceans and the atmosphere, and

Whereas, this accumulation of CO₂ is the result of human activity, specifically the burning of fossil fuels to produce electricity and other forms of energy, creating CO₂ as a by-product of this combustion and releasing the gas into the Earth's atmosphere, and

Whereas, the prevention of further climate change and reduction of the amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere is a paramount goal in preventing worsening climate change and weather changes, and

Whereas, the production of energy from fossil fuels is the primary function of certain companies which sell stock to investors, and

Whereas, the companies that deal in fossil fuels are not willing to stop their production voluntarily, a strategy of removing investment funds from the company has been adopted as a way to send a strong message to the companies to move them to stop production, and the accumulated withdrawal of funds may serve to reduce the companies' ability and effectiveness in extracting and burning fossil fuels,

Be it resolved, that the Washington State Audubon Conservation Committee recommends that all Washington State Audubon chapters that have investments in coal and oil producing companies join with other organizations and make the commitment to withdraw their funds in companies that produce fossil fuels and set a timetable by which they will complete the transfer of these assets out of investments in fossil fuels.