

Hello! My name is Phoebe Chatfield. I am eighteen years old and a student at Yale University. I cannot be at the state house today to support this bill in person, but I am writing now to indicate my full support. Fossil Fuel Divestment is an essential step towards building a just and stable future for me and for my peers. As young people, we are the ones whose lives will be most impacted by the scarcity, dangerous weather, and social unrest that climate change will cause.

For this reason, I write hoping that you will listen carefully and seriously to the arguments being made in favor of divestment. The logic is sound, and the stakes are incredibly high. Fossil Fuel Divestment does not aim to financially harm the fossil fuel industry, but to stigmatize it and call into question its legitimacy, its right to profit from destruction and exploitation, and its right to interfere with politics. The fossil fuel industry's influence over public policy, on a state and national level, has been a core element in the stalling of any sort of climate action. The climate denialism spread by the industry and their politicians is a direct affront to the future that my generation will inherit. The industry must be exposed and stopped, and divestment is one effective way to do this. As is shown in past divestment campaigns, divestment can be a catalyst for effective public policy, and it is my hope that it will be in this case as well.

Thanks so much,
Phoebe Chatfield