



Dear Mayor Bowser and Members of the District of Columbia Council,

We understand there is a push among some Washington, DC residents and Councilmembers to remove investments in fossil fuel companies from the District's investment portfolios. We would like to invite you to join a growing international movement by divesting your city's pension funds and Health Annuity Trust from fossil fuel companies. The Mayors Innovation Project, with 350.org, has worked with the more than 50 cities worldwide who have divested, and we'd like your city to consider joining them.

Climate change represents the single greatest long-term threat to our cities and citizens. The health, wealth, infrastructure, and ability to maintain basic services of local governments will all be increasingly degraded as our planet warms and our weather worsens. In fact, the [Union of Concerned Scientists just released a report](#) warning about the increase in flooding in the DC area due to climate change. And yet cities are currently sharing the record profits made by the fossil fuel industry – investing in the very companies that are directly responsible for this threat. Local governments have the opportunity to be leaders in combatting this absurdity; by divesting their funds - general, retirement, utility, pension, etc. - from any company that profits from fossil fuels.

This global movement – including cities, states, foundations, universities, and pension funds, [has collectively divested over \\$2.6 trillion in assets](#). There is an increasingly diverse array of reinvestment options, significant research about continued carbon risk in normal portfolios, and solid track records for divested portfolios.

This climate activism is part of a rich history of making change via how and where we invest our money. The anti-apartheid divestment movement targeting companies doing business in South Africa is cited as being critical in the eventual progress of that country. Many of our cities participate in fair trade, sweat-free, or local purchasing efforts. As more cities, many of whom have already made commitments to fight global warming, take this step, the effect will be profound – both financially and by making a statement that profiting from the misery of future generations is wrong.

The Mayors Innovation Project has resources available to help with this process, including draft resolutions, tools for working with your financial team, and suggestions for alternative investments. Even if your city does not currently have any of its funds in fossil fuels, a resolution barring future investments from being made in such companies will have a significant effect. You can view these at [www.mayorsinnovation.org/divestment](http://www.mayorsinnovation.org/divestment). If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Please consider joining this rapidly growing movement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Bill McKibben', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Bill McKibben, 350.org Founder

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mike McGinn', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Mike McGinn, Former Mayor of Seattle