

Protect Our Future: Protect Responsible Investing

Oppose HB 1699, 1700, 1937 and 1725 and SB 815, 827, 980, 1113, 1061 and 1142

It is not a new idea to incorporate social, environmental and governmental issues such as corruption into investment decisions. Companies consider the environment in order to *moderate risk and align with the values of their customers and community* to make better long term investments. Investment managers who incorporate these factors into decisions have a strong history of profits. Because of this, it is becoming a more and more popular method of investment.



A MANUFACTURED ISSUE

All of these bills either prevent the Missouri state and/or local government from taking into account climate change and other social and governance issues when making decisions, or else prevent state and/or local government from dealing with businesses that do the same.

Why would the Missouri legislature enact these bills? This attempt to restrict Missourians' options is *part of a larger dark-money campaign orchestrated and heavily funded by the fossil fuel industry and out-of-state billionaires*. They oppose the growing trend of financial institutions and state and local governments making common-sense, business-driven decisions to respond to the systemic risks of climate change. They want to stop money flowing out of risky fossil fuel investments and into the growing clean energy economy by limiting options for governments. Rather than choosing Missourians, these bills favor dark money interests.

CONSIDERING THE FUTURE

This set of bills is a desperate attempt at climate denialism. The fossil fuel industry is highly subsidized and *the status quo is not profitable or financially sustainable*. Bills like these are a dying industry's attempt to forestall the end rather than make changes for our shared future. States that have enacted similar laws risk losing hundreds of millions of dollars for retirees and municipalities.

Climate change is real and it already negatively impacts our economy. In 2021 climate disasters cost the United States more than \$145 billion. Missouri already suffers negative effects of climate change, including more frequent and severe floods, longer periods of dangerous heat in the summer, droughts and a more intense cold polar vortex in the winter. *Both businesses and governments should consider the effects of climate change on the economy and Missourians*. These bills limit that option.

HB 1699 is sponsored by Rep. Sparks. HB 1700 is sponsored by Rep. Sparks. HB 1725 is sponsored by Rep. O'Donnell. HB 1937 is sponsored by Rep. Owen. SB 815 is sponsored by Sen. Carter. SB 827 is sponsored by Sen. Koenig. SB 980 is sponsored by Sen. Black. SB 1061 is sponsored by Sen. Coleman. SB 1113 is sponsored by Sen. Black. SB 1142 is sponsored by Sen. Moon.

CONTACT

Missouri Sierra Club
PO Box 432010, St. Louis, MO 63143

314-644-1011
missouri.chapter@sierraclub.org



1 Harvard Business Review "Yes Investing in ESG Pays Off" April 13, 2022. hbr.org/2022/04/yes-investing-in-esg-pays-off
2 Fast Company "The Secret Money Fueling the Conservative 'Anti-ESG Push'" December 19, 2022. [fastcompany.com/90824901/secret-money-fueling-conservative-anti-esg-push](https://www.fastcompany.com/90824901/secret-money-fueling-conservative-anti-esg-push)
3 International Monetary Fund "Fossil Fuel Subsidies" [imf.org/en/Topics/climate-change/energy-subsidies](https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/climate-change/energy-subsidies)
4 The Hill "Analysis: State Anti-ESG laws could cost tax payers hundreds of millions" thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/3812695-analysis-state-anti-esg-laws-could-cost-taxpayers-hundreds-of-millions/
5 National Centers for Environmental Information "Billion Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters" <https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/billions/>, [nca2018.globalchange.gov/chapter/21/](https://www.nca2018.globalchange.gov/chapter/21/), ucdavis.edu/climate/definitions/what-is-the-polar-vortex, rff.org/publications/explainers/climate-financial-risks-101/, occ.treas.gov/topics/supervision-and-examination/climate/index-climate.html, whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/05/20/executive-order-on-climate-related-financial-risk/