

Dear Treasurer Pearce:

Please ignore the request of outgoing Mr. Shumlin et al. for divestment of specific investments from Vermont Pensions (and all other) Funds. The only applicable criterion should be value, i.e., ROI at minimum cost.

At a time when the Legislature is searching for anything/everything else that can be taxed, no additional expense should be incurred by the Treasurer's Office (or anyone else) to undertake such a divestment. I understand that many investments are in mutual funds and/or index funds, and are very likely to include Exxon Mobil and many of the top 200 carbon-producing companies. To eliminate these entities would surely require additional staff for your office and may compromise the performance of the portfolios.

It makes absolutely no sense for the State of Vermont to spend two minutes or two cents on this effort. With Mr. Obama's concurrence, China is putting a new 600 MW coal fired power plant on line every 10 days for the next 10 years. Mr. Obama has agreed to reduce US emission to well below 2005 levels by 2025, in exchange for absolutely nothing from China. China, who generates over 4,000,000,000 metric tons of carbon emissions annually, has only to select an undefined carbon cap by 2030.

VT generated 8,110,000 metric tons in 2011, lower than 1990 levels, 0.0020275% of China's emissions – well below the accuracy of the calculation. There is no need to further degrade VT in any way, for no purpose. Why not work on something meaningful, like reducing regulation and taxation to make Vermont a viable place for business.

George J. Schaefer
PO Box 631
Warren, VT