*SAMPLE LETTER TO ASSEMBLY MEMBER ABOUT SB 185*

*Glenn Fieldman wrote this letter to the member of the California State Assembly representing her district. She offers it as a sample for writing to your Assembly Member. You can find who your member is at this webpage:* [*http://findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov/*](http://findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov/)*.*

*Glenn writes: "I heard (somewhere) that letters in hard copy get somewhat more cred than e-mails because of the additional effort involved in printing out and mailing them, so I’m sending this one the old-fashioned way."*

*Please rewrite this letter in your own voice and send it to your Assembly Member, preferably in the old-fashioned way, in a stamped envelope. It's important to pass SB 185, the coal divestment bill.*

*Here is what Glenn wrote:*

June 10, 2015

Assembly Member Kevin Mullin

State Capitol

P.O. Box 942849

Sacramento, CA 94249-0022

Dear Assembly Member Mullin:

As a constituent and a CalPERS member, I’m writing to ask you to cosponsor Senator Kevin de León’s bill, SB 185, in the Assembly. It will require our state’s large and influential pension funds to divest from coal mining companies. As you are probably aware, it recently passed in the Senate by a substantial margin. I was very pleased to note that Sen. Jerry Hill responded to constituents’ requests and cosponsored this important piece of legislation.

Climate scientists now tell us that without urgent action, our emissions path is likely to elevate global average temperatures by 4°Celsius by 2100—an increase that will threaten food supplies and variety, put all coastal populations at risk, and drive a large percentage of living species to extinction. World leaders have agreed that if we are to avoid massive disruption of our civilization, we must keep global temperature increases below 2°C (and preferably less). The vast majority of coal reserves held by these companies must stay in the ground, unburned, to avoid hitting the 2°C “ceiling.”

Neither passage of the bill nor divestment in general will bankrupt these companies. Rather, the goal of the fossil fuel divestment movement is to delegitimize the burning of fossil fuel and prod governments to speed the transition to 100% renewable energy. CalPERS and CalSTRS oversee the retirement funds of thousands of public employees. Requiring them to divest is entirely consistent with California’s public commitment to do its part in the fight to stabilize the climate. It will advance the mandate of AB32, complement the more ambitious emissions-reduction goals recently set by the Governor, and enhance California’s status as a leader in this effort.

Divestment is also financially prudent for fund members and retirees. Holding coal stocks is thought by many analysts (including, prominently, Goldman Sachs) to be risky, as coal’s role in the deterioration of the climate becomes more widely known. Several analyses show that if funds now invested in fossil fuel companies had been allocated across other sectors of index funds in the past five or 10 years, returns would be marginally greater than they have been with those holdings.

Please cosponsor this essential legislation.

Sincerely,

Glenn Fieldman, Ph.D.