Advisory Statement Sponsored by Students for Renewable Energy

Given that Western Washington University is committed to carbon neutrality by 2050 via the Climate Action Plan we call on our university to continue its leadership role in sustainability. The WWU Foundation Endowment, via its investments in certain comined investment funds, maintains an indirect ownership interest in certain equity funds, currently invests $11.6 million in energy companies that are involved in the production or distribution of fossil fuel related products. The WWU Foundation Investment Policy includes a Social Responsibility Clause that allows an "independent weight" to be provided to the investment decisions made where "corporate policies or practices are deemed to cause substantial social injury." We believe that climate change poses such a substantial threat to our world and local community that the social injuries inflicted by its effects justify the inclusion of fossil fuel investments under this social injury clause.

We believe that investing in funds which promote and/or engage in the burning of fossil fuels is unethical and contradictory to the mission of our university. The University intends to form a study group with students to examine its current investments and explore ways to best make a difference.

Question for the ballot: Should WWU freeze all new investments in fossil fuels and develop and implement a plan to divest from current fossil fuel investments within five years? YES NO