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Sent: Friday, March 18, 2016 3:10 PM
To: GPS
CC: London, Sarah; Coriell, Scott; Allen, Susan; Gray, Laura
Subject: CONF PRIV
Attachments: EO.docx

Gov - would you be up for doing an executive order establishing a task force on divestment? I attach a very preliminary draft I just put together, Sarah would need to review and refine.

Since based on today's meeting VPIC seems to have no intention of reporting back to legislature by may 2 with any recommendations, and is in fact putting up obstacles, this task force could produce its own report looking at divestment and the costs and benefits and provide it to legislature by April 28.

To me this accomplishes a few things:

1. We get some useful analysis to legislature and public, and get to frame it instead of continuing to let VPIC control conversation
2. We put pressure on VPIC to actually produce recommendations by may 2 and not be upstaged by our report
3. Another hook for media focus on this issue
4. We provide a forum to hear from folks who have been purposely left out of the discussion so far by VPIC, such as California Treasurer and Controller

I think we could have a few of our folks on our task force like Justin and Deb and Annie Noonan, actually put two legislators on it since VPIC won't, like Mary Sullivan and Pollina, then add folks with expertise who support moving forward like Michael Dworkin, Don Hooper, Trillium Asset Management, Eric Becker, Ed Stanak, Bob Barton of Catalyst Financial, a few state retirees who are good on this, etc.

EO – GOVERNOR’S TASK FORCE ON DIVESTMENT FROM COAL AND EXXONMOBIL

Task Force on Divestment from Coal and ExxonMobil

WHEREAS, the State of Vermont has established substantive and necessary statutory goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change; and

WHEREAS, the Vermont House of Representatives has voted affirmatively on H.R. 13, a resolution supporting divestment from coal and ExxonMobil; and

WHEREAS, a majority of Senators in the Vermont Senate have signed a letter supporting divestment from coal and ExxonMobil; and

WHEREAS, the Governor recognizes the urgency of taking actions in concert with other states, nations, private sector and philanthropic entities controlling an estimated \$3.4 trillion in assets who have collectively committed to divestment from fossil fuels; and

WHEREAS the State of California has begun the process of divesting its pension funds from coal; and

WHEREAS the Governor recognizes that the Dow Jones Coal Index has lost an estimated 95 percent of its value since 2011; and

WHEREAS the Governor recognizes that Pulitzer-prize winning journalists have uncovered evidence alleging that ExxonMobil knew about the impacts of climate change, and used such knowledge to change the height of their offshore drilling rigs to account for sea level rise, while continuing to advocate in public against meaningful action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS the Governor supports the goal agreed to by 196 nations in Paris in 2015 to hold climate change to no more than 2 degrees Celsius, a goal which creates the possibility according to a report by Citi of \$100 trillion in stranded fossil fuel assets; and

WHEREAS the Governor recognizes the importance of maintaining a strong pension fund for Vermont’s public employees and retirees; and

WHEREAS the Governor recognizes the need for divestment to comport with fiduciary responsibilities of VPIC, and recognizes that Vermont has a proud history of using divestment as an economic tool for meaningful change consistent with that fiduciary duty, including as it relates to divesting from companies doing business with Apartheid South Africa, divesting from tobacco, and divesting from companies doing business with Sudan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT I, Peter Shumlin, by the virtue of the power vested in my as Governor, do hereby establish the Governor’s Task Force on Divestment from Coal and

ExxonMobil solely to produce useful analysis to help VPIC and the legislature in considering how to move forward with divestment. To these ends, I direct the following:

1. The Governor's Task Force on Divestment from Coal and ExxonMobil will consist of up to 14 members, including members who have expertise in the fields of financial investment, labor policy, and energy and environmental policy, and be appointed by the governor and serve at his pleasure.
2. The Task Force shall produce a report to the Governor, VPIC, and the House and Senate Committees on Government Operations by April 28, 2016, and such report shall include recommendations on divestment from coal and ExxonMobil as well as analysis of costs and benefits of divestment. The Task Force shall consult with outside experts as needed to complete its report, including consulting with experts involved in California's divestment process such as the California Treasurer's Office, California Controller, and the California State Teachers' Retirement System.
3. The Governor shall appoint one member to serve as Chair.
4. The Executive Office of the Governor shall provide administrative support to the Task Force. Members of the Task Force shall receive no compensation for their service.

This executive order shall take effect upon signing.

Witness my name hereunto subscribed and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont hereunto affixed at Montpelier, this day of March, 2016.

Peter Shumlin, Governor