

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1460

To amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for an investment option under the Thrift Savings Plan that does not include investment in any fossil fuel companies.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 14, 2019

Mr. MERKLEY introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for an investment option under the Thrift Savings Plan that does not include investment in any fossil fuel companies.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

4 This Act may be cited as the “Retirement Invest-
5 ments for a Sustainable Economy Act of 2019” or the
6 “RISE Act of 2019”.

7 SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

8 It is the sense of Congress that—

1 (1) continued inaction by the Federal Govern-
2 ment with respect to addressing climate change
3 poses a significant threat to the growth and stability
4 of the economy and population of the United States;

5 (2) pension and retirement funds are vulnerable
6 to distinct risks relating to climate change, includ-
7 ing—

8 (A) climate impact risks, including sea
9 level rise, heat waves, desertification, ocean aci-
10 dification, flooding, drought, extreme weather,
11 and wildfires;

12 (B) carbon-constrained demand risks, in-
13 cluding stranded carbon assets, which financial
14 institutions have estimated as having a value of
15 \$100,000,000,000,000; and

16 (C) climate liability risks, including from
17 evolving interpretations of fiduciary and tor-
18 tious duties of care; and

19 (3) assessing the potential impact of climate-re-
20 lated risks on national and international financial
21 systems, including retirement savings accounts and
22 pensions, is an urgent concern.

23 SEC. 3. CLIMATE CHOICE STOCK INDEX FUND.

24 Section 8438 of title 5, United States Code, is
25 amended—

1 (1) in subsection (a)—

2 (A) by redesignating paragraphs (4) through (10) as paragraphs (7) through (13),
3 respectively;

5 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) as paragraphs (2), (4), and (5), respectively;

8 (C) by inserting before paragraph (2), as so redesignated, the following:

10 “(1) the term ‘Climate Choice Stock Index Fund’ means the Climate Choice Stock Index Fund established under subsection (b)(1)(G);”;

13 (D) by inserting after paragraph (2), as so redesignated, the following:

15 “(3) the term ‘entity’ means any sole proprietorship, organization, association, corporation, partnership, joint venture, limited partnership, limited liability partnership, limited liability company, or other business association, including any wholly owned subsidiary, majority-owned subsidiary, parent-country national, or affiliate of the business association, that exists for the purpose of making profit;”; and

24 (E) by inserting after paragraph (5), as so redesignated, the following:

1 “(6) the term ‘fossil fuel entity’ means any en-
2 tity—

3 “(A) with proven carbon reserves; or
4 “(B) that explores for, extracts, processes,
5 refines, or transmits coal, oil, gas, oil shale, or
6 tar sands;”; and

7 (2) in subsection (b)—

8 (A) in paragraph (1)—

9 (i) in subparagraph (E), by striking
10 “and” at the end;

11 (ii) in subparagraph (F), by striking
12 the period at the end and inserting “;
13 and”; and

14 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
15 lowing:

16 “(G) a Climate Choice Stock Index Fund
17 as provided in paragraph (6).”; and

18 (B) by adding at the end the following:

19 “(6)(A) The Board shall select an index which
20 is a commonly recognized index comprised of com-
21 mon stock.

22 “(B) The historical performance of the index
23 selected under subparagraph (A) shall be comparable
24 to that of the other investment funds and options
25 available under this subsection.

1 “(C) The Climate Choice Stock Index Fund
2 shall be invested in a portfolio that is designed—

3 “(i) to replicate the performance of the
4 index selected under subparagraph (A);

5 “(ii) such that, to the extent practicable,
6 the percentage of the Climate Choice Stock
7 Index Fund that is invested in each stock is the
8 same as the percentage determined by dividing
9 the aggregate market value of all shares of that
10 stock by the aggregate market value of all
11 shares of all stocks included in the index se-
12 lected under subparagraph (A); and

13 “(iii) to ensure that no investment in the
14 portfolio is an investment with respect to a fos-
15 sil fuel entity.”.

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