

Hello President Alicia Klein and Making Waves Academy Board,

My name is Lizbeth Ibarra and I am writing to you on behalf of the Climate Justice club as club President. We are writing this letter to ask for your support of our club's efforts in getting CalSTRS to divest from the fossil fuel industry by granting us a resolution.

We started our club with 8 founding members this 2020-2021 school year because we recognize that climate justice is not purely environmental, it is actually an intersectional movement that needs to uplift and empower frontline communities like ours. The global climate crisis is an ethical, human rights, political, and social justice issue that has caused low-income BIPOC in marginalized communities to deal with the consequences of climate change, even though these are the same people who have been fighting for climate justice since the beginning. This club provides a segway for Wave-Makers to organize and fight for all of the issues climate justice intersects with. We do this through weekly club meetings where we learn, discuss, educate, heal, and take action around the things happening locally and globally, with hopes to create change within our community that will ripple when Wave-Makers go home.

Most recently, we felt compelled to speak up when we learned that the California State Teachers' Retirement System is investing over \$6 Billion into the fossil fuel industry. We found it ironic that our teachers are preparing us for a future we may not even have, due to fossil fuels polluting and poisoning our futures, and most teachers did not even know this was happening. We did what we thought could make the most impact, so we educated our teachers and community about the toxic ties CalSTRS has with fossil fuels. We proposed a virtual event, our first event ever, and worked as a club to create an interactive presentation that exposed what CalSTRS is doing, how it negatively impacts us all, and discussed what action items can be taken to help, which included an email to CalSTRS template that we created. Inspired by a youth-led campaign that already exists, we called our event "Divest CalSTRS," because we're asking CalSTRS to divest this money from fossil fuels and instead invest in a just transition away from them. Our event took place on February 11th, 2021 at 3:30 PM via Zoom with 29 people in attendance and we were glad to see everyone's willingness to take action in asking CalSTRS to divest.

In this proposed resolution, we are asking to resolve that the MWA Board supports the Climate Justice club's efforts in asking CalSTRS to divest our teacher's money from the fossil fuel industry. If the Board passes this resolution, we plan to send a copy to the CalSTRS Board at Board@calstrs.com, along with emails coming from students, teachers, and community members, telling CalSTRS why their investments are personally affecting us and our futures. We would also contact our local newspapers, letting them know that our school Board passed this resolution, hoping that it will inspire others students in our community to get their school to pass a resolution supporting the same cause. We believe that the Board supporting our cause through this resolution has the potential to make a huge difference and help us get CalSTRS to divest. The CalSTRS Board has a history of ignoring youth voices, so seeing that our school Board supports us has the power to really get our voices heard and create long lasting change.

Best Regards,
The Climate Justice Club