

An Open Letter from the Faculty to Chancellor Chopp and the Board of Trustees

We, the undersigned Faculty of the University of Denver, sincerely believe that the University of Denver is a “private university dedicated to the public good.” As such, we call upon the University of Denver to divest the University’s portfolio of all investments in the 200 publicly traded fossil fuel companies with the largest carbon reserves¹.

We applaud the University of Denver for its successful and cost-effective efforts to reduce its carbon footprint and for its acceptance, in the American College & University Presidents’ Climate Commitment², of “the scientific consensus that global warming is real and is largely being caused by humans.” We further support the University’s recognition of “the need to reduce the global emission of greenhouse gases by 80% by mid-century at the latest, in order to avert the worst impacts of global warming,” and its understanding that exerting “leadership in addressing climate change will stabilize and reduce their long-term energy costs, attract excellent students and faculty, attract new sources of funding, and increase the support of alumni and local communities.”

We understand that fossil fuel divestment is an international movement on university and college campuses to inspire action on behalf of these educational institutions to move away from investment in fossil fuel companies whose activities threaten climate stability. We understand 58 colleges have already fully or partially divested from fossil fuels, acting as positive examples for the University of Denver while leaving space for us to be among the leaders in a social movement³.

We further understand that the moral imperative to divest from fossil fuels must be balanced against the well-being of the members of the University of Denver community supported by student scholarships and faculty and staff compensation. However, there is mounting evidence that divestment can be achieved without financial cost. Indeed, after the December 2015 COP21 Paris Agreement, there is a strong argument that divestment from fossil fuels is the only wise long-term investment strategy.

Accordingly we call on the University of Denver Board of Trustees to initiate an open process to:

1. Immediately freeze new investments in the 200 fossil fuel companies with the largest carbon reserves,
2. 2. Develop a plan to divest all current holdings in these companies within five years,
3. 3. Reinvest in climate solutions.

On behalf of the public good, it is time for the University of Denver to act.

¹ <http://fossilfreeindexes.com/research/the-carbon-underground/>

² <http://www2.presidentsclimatecommitment.org/html/commitment.php>

³ <http://gofossilfree.org/commitments/>

Signatories (Updated May 22, 2016)

	First	Last	Position	Department
1	Malcolm	Baker	Professor	Music
2	Lisa	Bardwell	Adjunct Faculty	Pioneer Leadership Program
3	Alicia	Barron Lopez	Teaching Assistant Professor	Department of Languages and Literatures
4	Brad	Benz	Teaching Associate Professor	Writing Program
5	Sarah	Bexell	Research Associate Professor	Graduate School of Social Work
6	Miriam	Bornstein Gomez	Associate Professor	Languages and Literatures
7	Susan	Bridle	Adjunct Faculty	Korbel School of Int'l Studies
8	Angela	Buck	PhD Student	English
9	Rodney	Buxton	Associate Professor	Media, Film and Journalism Studies
10	Bernadette	Calafell	Full Professor	Communication
11	Maria M.	Calbi	Associate Professor	Physics & Astronomy
12	Jennifer	Campbell	Teaching Associate Professor	Writing Program
13	Alejandro	Ceron	Assistant Professor	Anthropology
14	April	Chapman-Ludwig	Teaching Assistant Professor	Writing Program
15	Federico	Cheever	Professor of Law	Sturm College of Law
16	Richard	Clemmer-Smith	Professor	Anthropology
17	Paula	Cole	Teaching Assistant Professor	Economics
18	Christopher	Coleman	Associate Professor	Emergent Digital Practices
19	Lisa	Conant	Associate Professor	Political Science
20	William	Cross, Jr.	Clinical Professor	HED & Counseling
21	David	Daniels	Teaching Associate Professor	Writing Program
22	Katie	Dingeman-Cerda	Visiting Assistant Professor	Sociology and Criminology
23	Lindsey	Feitz	Assistant Teaching Professor	Gender and Women's Studies
24	Christina	Foust	Associate Professor	Communication Studies
25	Rebecca	Galemba		JKSIS
26	Tony	Gault	Associate Professor	Media, Film & Journalism Studies
27	Andrea	Gelfuso	Adjunct Faculty	Geography and the Environment
28	Hava	Gordon	Director and Associate Professor	Gender and Women's Studies
29	Josh	Hanan	Assistant Professor	Communication Studies
30	Elizabeth	Henry	Teaching Associate Professor	Media, Film and Journalism
31	Darrin	Hicks	Professor	Communication Studies
32	Matthew	Hill	Teaching Associate Professor	Writing
33	Jennifer	Hoffman	Associate Professor	Physics & Astronomy
34	Bruce	Hutton	Professor	Business Ethics & Legal Studies
35	Hallie	Jaeger	MA Candidate	The Center for Sustainability
36	Jessica	Johnson	Graduate Teaching Instructor	Communication Studies

37	Nadia	Kaneva	Associate Professor	Media, Film & Journalism Studies
38	Megan	Kelly	Teaching Assistant Professor	Writing Program
39	Paul	Kosempel	Teaching Associate Professor	Pioneer Leadership Program
40	Alison	Krogel	Associate Professor of Spanish	Languages & Literatures
41	Sergio	Macias	Assistant Teaching Prof.	Languages & Lit
42	Justin	Marceau	Professor	Law
43	Heather	Martin	Teaching Associate Professor	Writing Program
44	Don	Mayer	Professor	Business Ethics and Legal Studies
45	Sarah	Morelli	Associate Professor	Lamont School of Music
46	Thomas	Nail	Associate Professor	Philosophy
47	Benjamin	Nourse	Visiting Assistant Professor	Religious Studies
48	Taylor	Nygaard	Visiting Assistant Teaching Professor	Media, Film, and Journalism Studies
49	Aaron	Paige	Visiting Assistant Teaching Professor	Lamont School of Music
50	Ann	Petrila	Assistant Dean for Field Education	GSSW
51	William	Philpott	Associate Professor	History
52	Lauren	Picard	Teaching Assistant Professor	Writing Program
53	Justin	Pidot	Associate Professor	Sturm College of Law
54	Erika	Polson	Assistant Professor	Media, Film & Journalism Studies
55	Tom	Quinn	Professor	Biological Sciences
56	Richard	Reading	Scholar-in-Residence	Social Work
57	Trace	Reddell	Associate Professor	Emergent Digital Practices
58	Tom	Romero, II	Associate Professor of Law	Sturm College of Law
59	Dale	Rothman	Associate Professor	Josef Korbel School of International Studies
60	Adrienne	Russell	Associate Professor	Media Film and Journalism/Emergent Digital Practices
61	Misty	Saribal	Graduate Student	Communication
62	Orna	Shaughnessy	Assistant Professor	Languages & Literatures
63	Hilary	Smith	Assistant Professor	History
64	Oscar	Somoza	Professor	Languges and Literatures
65	Dian	Squire	Postdoctoral Fellow	IRISE
66	Donald	Sullivan	Associate Professor	Geography and the Environment
67	Paul	Sutton	Professor	Geography & The Environment
68	Javier	Torre	Associate Professor	Languages and Literatures
69	Armond	Towns	Assistant Professor	Communication Studies
70	Robert	Uttaro	Associate Teaching Professor	Josef Korbel School of International Studies
71	Nancy	Wadsworth	Associate Professor	Political Science
72	Diane	Waldman	Associate Professor	Media, Film, and Journalism Studies
73	Susan	Walter	Associate Professor	Department of Languages and Literatures