

Amelia Southern Uribe  
Amelia Southern-Uribe  
University of Arkansas

<https://www.instagram.com/projectgreenarkansas/>

Dear ASG Student body president,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a dedicated member of our academic community, I am writing to discuss a significant initiative that could both strengthen our institution and align us with prevailing trends in higher education—divestment from fossil fuels. It is my belief that adopting this approach can bring tangible benefits to our institution, and I would like to offer a subtle appeal to conservatives, drawing upon benchmark SEC schools as examples.

Our world is undoubtedly at a crossroads, facing the challenge of climate change. The use of fossil fuels has come under increasing scrutiny due to its environmental impact. It is in this context that I believe it is prudent for our institution to explore divestment, while also considering the potential benefits this move can offer.

In the spirit of appealing to a broader audience, including conservatives, I would like to present the following points:

1. **Financial Prudence:** Leading SEC schools such as the University of Texas and Texas A&M have recognized the financial risks associated with fossil fuel investments. Divestment allows us to mitigate these risks by diversifying our portfolio and aligning with the global shift towards sustainable investments.
2. **Protecting Endowments:** Conservative financial management principles, which are often highly valued, emphasize protecting and growing endowment funds. Divestment can help protect our endowments from potential losses associated with the declining fossil fuel industry.
3. **Institutional Reputation:** Our institution's reputation plays a vital role in attracting students, faculty, and supporters. Divestment aligns with a growing trend in higher education, positioning us as a forward-thinking, environmentally responsible institution, which can positively impact our standing in the academic community.
4. **Educational Enhancement:** Embracing sustainability and environmental responsibility can enrich our curriculum. This aligns with the conservative principles of knowledge preservation and intellectual development, which have always been foundational in education.
5. **Risk Mitigation:** Diversifying our investments to include sustainable alternatives not only supports our financial stability but also aligns with conservative values of prudence and minimizing risk.

6. Alumni Engagement: SEC schools such as Auburn University have experienced increased alumni engagement following divestment. This can bolster our fundraising efforts, aligning with conservative ideals of individual and community involvement.

7. Long-term Viability: Fossil fuels face a future of increasing regulatory scrutiny and market volatility. A long-term investment strategy, aligned with sustainability, can safeguard our institution for generations to come.

I recognize the complexity of this matter and the need for a balanced, fact-based approach. It is not merely about environmental considerations but also about making sound financial decisions that can ensure the longevity and prosperity of our institution.

I kindly request the opportunity to engage in a constructive dialogue on this subject, exploring the benefits of divestment and how it can be tailored to our institution's unique needs and values. Let us learn from the successes of benchmark SEC schools and create a roadmap that aligns our academic excellence with responsible stewardship.

Thank you for considering these points, and I look forward to the opportunity to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

Amelia Southern Uribe  
afsouthe@uark.edu

*it's time to  
take action for  
our university*



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