



**Petitions on Divestment for YorkU Advisory Committee on responsible  
Investment**

Penni Stewart to: jhorwood

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Dear Ms. Horwood

I am writing in support of two recent petitions, the first relating to divestment from fossil fuels and the second, relating to divestment from arms manufacturing particularly Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, BAE Systems, Amphenol and Textron Inc.

The case for divesting from investments in fossil fuels is compelling. As the Paris Accord and environmental science have made clear, carbon emissions must be severely curtailed and curtailed quickly if we are to have any hope of a positive impact on climate change. Fossil fuel use is a key cause of greenhouse gas emissions and from every angle, the fossil fuel industry must be wound down as fast as possible. York has worked hard to be a leader in environmental awareness and a "green" institution in our practices and principles. Maintaining investments in fossil fuels runs counter to all this work. I strongly support the petition to divest from fossil fuel companies and to desist from future investments in fossil fuels.

I also support the petition to divest from the arms manufacturing companies. Divesting from Arms manufacturing is not a new proposal, as a graduate student, now many years ago, I was involved in the anti-war movement and the anti nuclear weapons movement, both of which sought weapons divestment. Today, in a world filled with weapons, this issue has even more urgency. In the United States, I understand that anti-gun activists are successfully and vigorously seeking to have pension and mutual funds divest from gun manufacturing. Here at York we should do no less. We should show leadership within our community and beyond and divest from the likes of Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, BAE Systems, Amphenol and Textron Inc.

Penni Stewart

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