



ASSU
Associated Students
of Stanford University

Dear Trustees of Stanford University,

It is our joint duty to represent the students of this great university, and to act in their best interests in carrying out Stanford's educational mission. In pursuit of that mission, today, we, the Associated Students of Stanford University, call upon you to divest from the entirety of the fossil fuel industry, including tar sands oil, conventional oil, and natural gas, by the end of Autumn Quarter 2015. We call upon you with the full force of our student body's collective intellect and determination behind us as the ASSU President, ASSU Vice President.

Stanford students have called upon you many times before to do this: in Spring 2014, with a referendum passed by popular vote of the entire undergraduate student body, and in Spring 2013 with a resolution passed by the ASSU Undergraduate Senate (UGS-S2013-14). In Spring 2014, the Graduate Student Council also passed a parallel resolution calling specifically for oil and natural gas divestment (GSC-2014-21).

But our calls can no longer go unanswered. The 21st Conference of Parties (COP21) will occur in Paris from November 30 through December 11, 2015. The United Nations has declared "*The stakes could not be higher...The global agreement reached at COP21 in Paris must be a decisive turning point for the world's efforts to fight climate change. COP21 will be the last chance to adopt a global agreement that makes it possible to secure a safe climate.*" Today, as students and members of the Stanford community, joined by Vice President Al Gore, rally in White Plaza to demand action on climate change, it is only right that this chorus of voices calling for change is met with concrete action from their Trustees.

In the past, Stanford University has been unafraid to lead this country and our world in solving the most challenging issues facing humanity. In this moment, we must act decisively and as promptly as possible to have the greatest impact. We recognize that many avenues of possible action exist for you as an entity, and that evaluating the specifics of such a large action will take time. In order to demonstrate a genuine commitment to action, however, divestment from oil and gas extraction companies is the statement that our generation and our student body need. Moreover, it is the statement that 375 members of the faculty and thousands of the students of this prestigious university have demanded of you.

Please, for our futures, act now.

Signed,

John-Lancaster Finley
President, Associated Students of Stanford University

Brandon Hill
Vice President, Associated Students of Stanford University