

# ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF STANFORD UNIVERSITY

## JOINT RESOLUTION ON FOSSIL FUEL INDUSTRY FUNDING OF RESEARCH ASSU-S2024-XX

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**DATE SUBMITTED:** 28 May 2024

**ACTION REQUESTED:** 2/3 of the Undergraduate Senate; Majority Vote of the Graduate Student Council

**STATUS:** 28 May 2024, **Passed 13-1-1** (GSC); 28 May 2024, **Passed 10-0-3** (UGS)

**WHEREAS** the Doerr School of Sustainability opened in Fall 2022, with a “commitment to generating solutions that benefit all people, especially those most harmed by climate change and environmental damage”<sup>1</sup>; and

**WHEREAS** subsequent investigations have shown fossil fuel industry partnerships and research funding ties within the school harms Stanford’s reputation and contributes to hindering progress on climate policy<sup>2</sup>; and

**WHEREAS** the latest US Joint Bicameral Staff Report affirmed that fossil fuel companies strategically target universities to lend credibility to its deception campaigns and condition their funding on academics’ cooperation and alignment with fossil fuel companies’ business needs<sup>3</sup>; and

**WHEREAS** Princeton University became the first university to dissociate from the most carbon-intensive fossil fuel companies in 2022,<sup>4</sup> the University of California San Diego faculty senate voted to enhance disclosure on all externally funded research,<sup>5</sup> and Cambridge University called for a moratorium on fossil fuel company funding<sup>6</sup>; and

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<sup>1</sup><https://sustainability.stanford.edu/our-impact>

<sup>2</sup><https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/fossil-fuel-money-will-undermine-stanford-s-new-sustainability-school/>;  
<https://www.chronicle.com/article/big-oil-helped-shape-stanford-s-latest-climate-research-focus>  
<https://www.thenation.com/article/environment/stanford-sustainability-school/>

<sup>3</sup>[New Joint Bicameral Staff Report Reveals Big Oil's Campaign of Climate Denial, Disinformation, and Doublespeak](https://www.princeton.edu/news/2022/09/29/princeton-dissociates-segments-fossil-fuel-industry)

<sup>4</sup><https://www.princeton.edu/news/2022/09/29/princeton-dissociates-segments-fossil-fuel-industry>

<sup>5</sup><https://senate.ucsd.edu/media/630151/cccc-resolution-on-public-disclosure-of-external-funding-04-06-23.pdf>

<sup>6</sup><https://www.ft.com/content/8011217f-573b-4d8a-aa6a-ae7ca280ed80>

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**WHEREAS** a university-wide petition calling for not accepting fossil fuel industry funding received more than 900 signatures<sup>7</sup>, and the Committee on Funding of Energy Research and Education (CFERE) was established to investigate and report on the issues raised<sup>8</sup>; and

**WHEREAS** the Stanford Research Policy Handbook states that “individual scholars should be free to select the subject matter of their research, to seek support from any source for their work, and to form their own findings and conclusions”<sup>9</sup>; and

**WHEREAS** Stanford has established Industrial Affiliate Programs<sup>10</sup> that allow companies to provide funding to groups of faculty in exchange for benefits such as opportunities to engage with program faculty and recruit students;

## **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSU LEGISLATIVE BODIES:**


**THAT** the university uphold its core values of research integrity and academic responsibility by committing to a transparent process for establishing criteria for determining when and on what terms to engage fossil fuel companies on funding for Industrial Affiliate Programs; and

**THAT** the university establish an oversight body with student and faculty representation that evaluates the above-mentioned criteria and makes binding decisions on disengaging and re-engaging with these companies; and

**THAT** until the above process is established, a moratorium is placed on funding for all Industrial Affiliate Programs from those companies identified in the Joint Bicameral Staff Report as having engaged in deception and misinformation campaigns, namely ExxonMobil, Shell USA, Chevron, and BP America; and

**THAT** until the above process is established, the above companies are banned from participating in on-campus career fairs and from participating in virtual recruitment via Stanford-sponsored platforms while they are prohibited from providing funding to Industrial Affiliate Programs.

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<sup>7</sup>  Open Letter on the Stanford Doerr School of Sustainability

<sup>8</sup> <https://cfere.stanford.edu/>

<sup>9</sup> <https://doresearch.stanford.edu/policies/research-policy-handbook/conduct-research/principles-concerning-research>

<sup>10</sup> <https://industrialaffiliates.stanford.edu>