Dear Trustees of Oberlin College:

We, as undersigned members of the EnviroAlums Steering Committee, write to you today in support of the recently submitted fossil fuel divestment proposal.

As alumni, we bear collective witness to decades of Oberlin’s environmental leadership. We were students during the establishment of the Environmental Studies Program, the building of the Adam Joseph Lewis Center, and the signing of the American College and Universities Presidents’ Climate Commitment. While events leading to these hallmark achievements invoked healthy debate, today no one would claim that such initiatives were mistaken or shortsighted.

In recent months, we’ve witnessed considerable growth in the campus-wide effort to support Oberlin’s divestiture of direct holdings of fossil fuel stocks, which, if successful, would make it the largest educational endowment in the country to divest such holdings.

Without significant risk to the College’s educational and fiduciary commitments, Oberlin is once again positioned to reaffirm its commitment to environmental leadership.

Considering this divestment proposal, we note that the Board’s decision will either bear extraordinary testimony to Oberlin’s strong environmental values, or reveal a missed opportunity for the College to align its values and practices.

As institutions around the world increasingly divest their portfolios of fossil fuel stocks, we call on the Oberlin Board of Trustees to rise to this momentous occasion and, in keeping with our alma mater’s storied reputation, do the right thing.

Think one college can change the world? So do we.

Sincerely yours,

Andrew deCoriolis (Chair, EnviroAlums)

Additional Signatories
Kristen Braziunas
Meredith Dowling
Peter Nicholson
Andrew Barnett
John Petersen
Hanni Muerdter