Resolved: The University of Denver Should Divest From the Top 200 Fossil Fuel Companies
A Debate Presented by the DU Debate Team to the DU Faculty Senate
April 22, 2016

On Friday April 22, 2016 the University of Denver Debate Team held a debate on the topic of fossil-fuel divestment for the University of Denver Faculty Senate. The debate featured seven speeches addressing three broad issues currently animating the divestment controversy. The first two speeches addressed the efficacy of divestment as a response to climate change (Mohler and Ober). The next two speeches addressed the ethical implications of divestment (Sunshine and Tolleson). The following two speeches addressed the financial implications of divestment in regards to the university's endowment (Pauls and Hickert). The final speech summarized the debate and presented several questions for consideration as the deliberations over divestment continues across campus (Towles).

Jordan Mohler--Pro Divestment I

Today I am going to talk about the responsibility DU has as an ethical actor, providing three areas in which fossil fuel companies have proven to be morally bankrupt. Exploring first, their egregious contribution to climate change, second, their use of violence to ensure profits, and third, their production of fraudulent science.

To begin, DU ought prioritize its role as an ethical actor. Universities are trusted to be the arbiters of truth and knowledge. This institution has been trusted with the responsibility of helping students become productive members of society and more importantly, educating young minds. As an institution boasting outstanding grants for scientific research and a dedication to the education of future leaders, it has become the expectation and the goal of the University of Denver to always stand in favor of sound ethical research. DU in particular is known for our strong Business Ethics program, professors on the forefront of Human Rights research and policy development, and researchers including some of the world's most influential scientific minds.

DU should divest not only because the science supports it, but also because fossil fuel companies for decades have committed acts of violence and fraud that oppose the ethical and educational principles of the university.

First, DU should divest from fossil fuel companies because of their substantial

unethical products only at highly discounted rates. This effect is even stronger for people who already have high expectations for ethical business practices.

For The University of Denver, this becomes an extremely important part of the equation. DU is trying to appeal to a generation of students who grew up with more access to information than ever before. The proliferation of information on the internet has created the most politically active generation ever. Nearly every study on the consumer habits of the millennial generation shows that things such as sustainability and social responsibility matter now more than ever. Price and quality simply aren't enough anymore.

Imagine an undecided prospective student touring DU for the first time. She's told about DU's world-

Lauren Pauls—Pro Divest III

Universities makes political choices all the time. A decade ago, the University of Denver chose to divest all holdings from companies affiliated with the Sudanese government after it committed deplorable acts against its population amidst a civil war. Divesting from Sudan did not mean choosing sides. It meant DU was not complicit, financially or otherwise, in the human rights abuses that occurred. It meant DU committed to the public good.

When our values are political, we make political choices about how to allocate finite resources. A dollar that spent in the name of public good is necessarily one that is NOT spent

Megan Towles—Summary

Today, I've been asked to give a Whip speech. In our format of British Parliamentary debate which takes its inspiration from the British house of commons, uses this speech as summation speech meant to help sort through the arguments presented today in a way that w