

Dan Fuchs—CASE Board candidate statement

I am running for a Director at Large position because I think CASE needs to do more to combat climate change and to build solidarity within CASE and with other unions. These issues are related, as strong collective action is needed in all areas of our work life.

First, I want to help push CASE to address the climate emergency. Climate change's effects are obvious and increasing in severity. And as a Deputy Attorney General V in the Natural Resources Law Section of the Attorney General's Office, representing state agencies struggling to confront statewide water shortages or floods, air pollution, and contaminated drinking water, nearly all of my cases now directly or indirectly involve responses to the climate emergency.

Meanwhile, CalPERS invests billions of dollars in the companies that knowingly caused these disasters and resists any efforts at change. This is an enormous moral failure, and a financial disaster waiting to happen as the fossil fuel companies struggle to recover their stranded assets in the face of ever-falling costs for alternative energy.

As a Director at Large, I will work to engage our union in pressuring CalPERS to divest from fossil fuel investments. At the same time, I will strive to ensure that we, as state employees, are empowered to reduce our own carbon footprint by continuing to work from home as much as possible while receiving the technological, financial, and other support to do so.

The joint action we need to see to pressure CalPERS to do the right thing is also what we need to see in our union. Union solidarity means that each of us is stronger when we work together—whether it is for better wages, better working conditions, or better benefits.

The need for solidarity is as great beyond CASE as within it. CASE should be coordinating with the other state unions. SEIU 1000 recently reached a tentative agreement after a tough, months-long negotiating fight, and California's professional scientists have been working without a contract since 2020. CASE should be marching arm in arm with members in these other unions, not watching from the sidelines.

Please help me build a stronger CASE that will fight on behalf of all of us to preserve our environment and build union solidarity.