

Submitter: Alexander Tomlinson

On Behalf
Of:

Committee: House Committee On Emergency Management, General
Government, and Veterans

Measure: HB4083

Dear Legislative Members,

I am reaching out to voice my steadfast support for the COAL Act, a legislative proposal aimed at transitioning Oregon's financial investments away from the coal industry.

The Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) and the Oregon Short Term Fund's engagement in coal investments, amounting to between \$700 million and \$1 billion over the past three years, represent a significant financial and environmental concern. The reliance on these volatile and environmentally damaging investments undermines Oregon's commitment to sustainability and poses substantial risks to the financial stability of our public funds.

Furthermore, as a medical student and soon-to-be health professional, I understand all too well the public health consequences of continued investment in coal. Coal pollution to the air, soil, and waterways causes a range of impacts from respiratory disease, cancer, adverse birth outcomes, and more. The continued investment in coal is morally irresponsible.

I look forward to your leadership in ensuring the passage of the COAL Act.