

Submitter: Peter Kokopeli

On Behalf
Of:

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

Measure: HB4083

I am writing in support of HB 4083 COAL Act. There are many virtues to this bill and no strikes against it. Oregon should not be investing in a money losing industry rooted in 19th century technology. If Oregon had followed California's example and divested in 2015 we would be far ahead today. Any investment in coal is morally doubtful. We know we must transition to a net zero economy to address climate change. Coal, even in its reduced state, remains one of the most carbon intensive sources of GHG pollution in the US. In addition, the health effects of the air pollution from coal-fired plants is well known and includes not only asthma and heart disease but also low birth weight in infants and diabetes. Oregon should be investing in green alternatives including solar and wind generation and energy efficiency.