

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of HB 4083.

HB 4083 affects me personally. I am a PERS retiree. Like more than 400,000 Oregonians who are PERS members, my pension makes a big difference to my financial well-being, and to my family's.

It is critically important to me that PERS is financially sound. At the same time, I do not want my pension's investments to be funding the climate crisis that is so clearly upon us. I was shocked to learn that the Oregon PERS fund has invested at least \$700M - \$1B in coal, the dirtiest of all polluters.

Fortunately, you have before you today HB 4083, the COAL Act. It sets the goal of moving our state's investments out of coal while removing the fiscal risk to PERS of the declining returns from coal investments. The experience of California is convincing. Since California started removing coal from its CalPers portfolio, it saw an increase of \$598 million in returns. But here in Oregon, PERS' coal investments underperformed by \$340 million according to a recent [analysis](#).

Here in Oregon, we take pride in our national leadership as environmental stewards. Please pass the COAL Act to preserve the beauty of our state for future generations.

Thank you,

Carole Romm  
Portland