

Submitter: Neon Brooks

On Behalf
Of:

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

Measure: HB4083

Dear Chair Dacia Grayber and Members of the House Committee On Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 480, the COAL Act. As a concerned parent deeply invested in securing a livable planet for future generations, I urge you to vote the COAL act out of committee as quickly as possible.

HB 480 sets forth a crucial goal: transitioning Oregon's investments away from dirty coal, thereby safeguarding our pensions and state finances. On a practical level, coal is a bad investment for Oregonians and leaves our state vulnerable as the world shifts to cleaner energy sources. As exemplified by California's divestment from coal, which yielded a \$598 million increase in returns, the financial benefits of divesting from coal are clear. This is one pension problem with a straightforward solution, making this bill a no brainer for protecting Oregon's fiscal resources.

Critically, HB 480 is not just about fiscal prudence; it's about moral leadership. Oregon's continued investment in coal contradicts our commitment to a sustainable future. By passing the COAL Act, Oregon can build momentum around divestment in fossil fuel, furthering the impacts of this bill as other states follow in our example.

In conclusion, I stand with the tens of thousands of Oregon public employees, including all Oregon Teachers Unions, in endorsing HB 480. This legislation represents a critical step towards securing a prosperous and sustainable future for all Oregonians. I urge you to support the COAL Act and vote in its favor.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Neon Brooks, PhD
Resident of Portland, Oregon and mother of 2
Position on bill: Support
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