

For the record my name is Hollie Oakes-Miller. I'm the Vice President of Political Action at American Federation of Teachers-Oregon and an instructor at Portland Community College. I am here to represent our thousands of members in higher education, K-12, and education workplaces across the state, the majority of whom are public sector workers that are or will be beneficiaries of the Oregon Public Employees Retirement Fund. We support the COAL Act because it sets the goal of moving our state's investments out of coal and keeping our pensions and state finances safer. We urge your support for HB 4083.

As a geology instructor I regularly teach the science of global climate change, its current impacts, and the projections for the future. My students express hopelessness and despair;

- about the climate crisis
- about political leaders' lack of will to change our course quickly enough to avert the worst impacts
- and about the bleak futures that they envision for themselves as a result

This is why we must be moving *all* levers in this critical climate moment. The COAL Act, HB 4083, will work alongside the recently unveiled Net Zero plan to take the necessary actions to protect our lives, our planet, our retirements, and our future.

As an active member of the Divest Oregon coalition, AFT-OR joined the call for the Oregon Investment Council to create OIC policy for the Net Zero Plan as part of its review and evaluation process. We similarly and simultaneously are calling for the Oregon Legislature to pass the COAL Act, HB 4083, to direct the treasury to phase out publicly traded investments in coal, halt new investments in coal, and report on progress made in these areas.

While we believe that the Net Zero plan is a critical and much welcomed step in decarbonizing the Oregon Public Employees Retirement Fund and we understand that it is a very complex process for the Oregon Treasury to undertake, we still worry for our students and future generations that it doesn't go far enough, fast enough, to ensure that we meet global emissions targets and secure a livable planet for humans and all living things.

AFT-OR members and our students know that climate change is an evolving crisis which we learn more about every day. We know that with all our efforts combined we can overcome the challenges of the climate crisis moving forward. It begins in 2024 with passing the COAL Act, HB 4083. We urge your support.

Thank you.

Hollie Oakes-Miller
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