



February 10, 2024

RE: Support for HB 4083, aka the C.O.A.L Act

Chair Grayber, Vice Chair Lewis, Vice Chair Tran, Members of the House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans:

I write today on behalf of the Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network (COIN) in full support of HB 4083, the C.O.A.L. Act. COIN is a coalition of over 50 Indivisible groups in Oregon that cooperate and amplify their joint efforts to advance federal and state legislation and engage with elected officials to promote progressive causes.

Moving away from dirty coal should not just be a “progressive” cause, it should be a priority for all Oregonians, and all Americans. The use of coal for energy production pollutes our air, soil and water, warms our climate, and adversely impacts our health. It can be directly linked to increased rates of cancer, cardiovascular disease, respiratory disease, kidney disease, birth defects, impaired child development, mental health problems and more. Vulnerable populations experience these impacts more acutely than more privileged populations. It is simply unethical for us to continue to enable this form of energy production.

Because more and more Americans are coming to this same conclusion, coal is no longer a safe investment for the Oregon Treasury. It is our understanding that nearly \$1 Billion of PERS and the Oregon Short Term Fund have been invested in coal over the past three years, possibly more in private funds that are not open to public scrutiny. Many of our members are also PERS members and depend on PERS for a secure retirement. We do not believe investments in coal will provide that security.

Please pass this outstanding legislation for our environment, and for the 400,000 Oregonians who depend on Oregon’s Treasury to invest their retirement funds wisely.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on legislation that affects us all.

Deborah Ferrer
COIN Legislative Team