

Submitter: Kelly Brignell

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure: HB4083

RE: Support of HB 4083

Dear Oregon Senate Committee Members

I am a Landscape Architect residing in Portland, OR – greatly concerned about the devastating repercussions COAL has on our life sustaining eco-systems!

As you are undoubtedly aware, Coal has been ravaging our environment, climate, and public health for decades!

Coal is causing irreparable damage to our air, soil, and waterways. There are tremendous, negative coal related impacts to the health of all species – human and other co-inhabitants of this planet - such as: cancer, cardiovascular disease, respiratory disease, kidney disease, mental health problems, adverse birth outcomes, impaired child development, and many, many others. The multiple, harmful ramifications of coal also disproportionately impact vulnerable populations.

For environmental reasons alone I support HB 4083, but these are not the only reasons.

I strongly support HB 4083 - the COAL Act - because it establishes the goal of moving our state's investments out of dirty coal and keeping our pensions and state finances safer. It sets Oregon on the path to the decarbonization of its investments to which Treasurer Read has committed.

Coal is no longer a viable investment for Oregonians and our planet; it is a losing bet on all fronts. NOW - This is a critical first step, the impact of which will be felt by more than 400,000 Oregonians and their families who depend on PERS for their retirement. We have learned, from the experience of California in removing coal from CalPERS investments in 2015, that coal is no longer a good investment. CalPERS returns increased by \$598 million after removing coal from its portfolio. Oregon, on the other hand, is losing money with its coal investments. According to an analysis by Divest Oregon, Oregon's coal investments underperformed by \$340 million in the past 7.5 years.

Oregon has made a commitment to a green future. That commitment means divesting of the dirtiest of fossil fuels! NOW - we have waiting much too long! Let us continue our leadership in environmental progress and pass the COAL Act to preserve our life sustaining eco-systems for generations to come.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 4083.

Sincerely, Kelly Brignell

Portland, OR