

Submitter: Sarah Loose  
On Behalf Of: Oregon Synod Disaster and Climate Resilience  
Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment  
Measure: HB4083

Dear Senators,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of HB 4083, The COAL Act.

I serve as the Director for Disaster & Climate Resilience for the Oregon Synod, a body of over 100 Lutheran ministries throughout the state of Oregon. Already we have faith communities who are feeling the impacts of climate change; with sanctuaries being too hot for worship in the summer, congregants losing homes to climate-change fueled wildfires and watching their wells dry. From La Grande to Klamath Falls and Astoria to Portland, our communities are committed to faithful stewardship of the Earth's sacred gifts for future and current generations.

In 2016, our national body, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), voted to "work towards the goal of discontinuing any investment by the church in fossil fuel companies, and to commit to investing in corporations that are taking positive steps toward a sustainable environment."

Just as we have committed to clean energy investments in our own institution, we want to ensure that our state is making financially responsible and sustainable investments for PERS members and for a clean energy future. Indeed, many members of our congregations are invested in PERS and long to see the state's investments align with their own values of creation care and sustainability.

We urge you to support the COAL Act – an important first step towards protecting our communities and this place we call home.

Sincerely,

Sarah K. Loose  
On behalf of the Oregon Synod's Disaster & Climate Resilience Program