

Submitter: Julia Rankin

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure: HB4083

Dear Senators,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 4083.

My name is Julia Rankin and I just graduated from OSU. As the daughter of a third generation cattle rancher from Montana, I have seen first hand the damage coal extraction does to the environment and water. There are places in Montana where water isn't safe to use anymore because of coal mining, and I have helped wives and mothers of miners rebuild fences, because their husbands and sons are dead. It is rural and marginalized communities that feel the impacts of coal the most. Already my family, like many ranching and farming families in Oregon are feeling the effects of climate change, having water sources dry up for our cattle and crops fail.

These are just one of the reasons I strongly support HB 4083 - the COAL Act - because I have never met stronger people than those who commit their entire lives to feeding and helping others, and these rural communities deserve to be protected and respected. Farmers and ranchers shouldn't have to lose generations of stewardship because of the poor investments and actions of others. I am proud that my grandfather was one of the first soil conservationists in Montana, and I honestly don't know if we can carry on the legacy, knowing that our climate will just get worse which is heartbreaking. His legacy and relationship to the lands we steward are one of the only things we still have of him and his father. I know ranchers and farmers are tough, but they shouldn't have to be pushed to the breaking point.

The COAL Act moves our state's investments out of coal; protecting our global environment, protecting public health, and protects pensions and state finances. Investing in coal is not only physically dangerous to the health of our climate (I should know, I have an HBS in Environmental Science), it is fiscally dangerous to those who have devoted their lives to the public good in Oregon. When California removed coal from CalPERS investments in 2015, returns increased by \$598 million.

Oregonians want a green future, it is time to put our money where our mouth is, and divest from coal; something that Treasurer Reed has committed to. Pass the COAL Act to preserve the landscapes that we call home, they have provided so much for us; it is time we protect them and in turn, ourselves.

Sincerely,

Julia Rankin