

Submitter: Pat Christiansen

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure: HB4083

I am writing to urge you to support HB 4083, the COAL Act.

My husband and I moved to Oregon in 1984 as a part of the Tech boom. We fell in love with our beautiful new home and all of its natural treasures. Shortly after we arrived, we witnessed the demise of the forestry industry, which caused great pain to many working families. The effect of that shift, however, has been to protect vital resources and thereby protect our collective future. The same kind of action needs to be taken now against the coal industry. The surest way to influence any industry is through its profit margins. The state of Oregon has the power and the responsibility to invest our collective assets in ways that are fiscally and environmentally responsible. HB 4083 is a step in that direction.

There are many reasons to support this bill. It requires no funding, and so will not impact the state's overall revenue picture. In fact, investments in coal are poor investments, showing a \$340 million underperformance in the past decade in publicly traded investments. \$340 million, I'm sure you agree, could go a long way toward addressing our other issues including housing, substance abuse, and education.

I taught middle school science in private schools for over 30 years. One of my overall goals was to develop an understanding of how the various systems on Earth work and what happens when humans get in the way. As a person of faith, I am also concerned with how we humans steward the resources that we have been entrusted with. Continued reliance on fossil fuels, and coal in particular, is something we can collectively work to liberate ourselves from. This is a step in that direction.

Thank you for all of the hard work you do on our behalf. And thank you for supporting this bill.

Sincerely,
Pat C
Beaverton