

Submitter: Benjamin Platt

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure: HB4083

I strongly support HB 4083 - the COAL Act - because it represents an important step to moving our state towards a healthier, more sustainable future in line with the desires of Oregonians. Secondly, but importantly, it's also a smart financial move to divest from a dying industry to keep our pensions and state finances safer.

Coal is damaging to our the climate and to public health, causing damage to air, soil, and waterways and human health impacts such as cancer, cardiovascular disease, respiratory disease, kidney disease, mental health problems, adverse birth outcomes, impaired child development, and others. As with many environmental injustices, these negative impacts hit low-income and communities of color disproportionately hard.

The COAL Act represents a small but necessary first step towards aligning the state of Oregon's finances with the reality of the climate crisis and with the will of Oregonians like myself. Again and again, the people of Oregon have voiced a desire for a green future, and that future has no place for coal in our landscapes, in our communities, or in our investment portfolios.

Sincerely,
Benjamin Platt