

Submitter: Sandra Joos

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure: HB4083

I am writing to express my support for HB 4083, the COAL Act, which sets the goal of moving our state's investments out of dirty coal and keeping our pensions and state finances safer.

PERS and the Oregon Short Term Fund have between \$700M and \$1B invested in coal over the past 3 years in publicly traded funds. In addition to these public investments, the Treasury has more coal investments in private funds that are kept secret from the public.

The COAL Act will direct the Treasury to:

- Phase out publicly traded investments in coal
- Halt new investments in coal
- Report on the phase out of coal

There is legislative precedent for the COAL Act in the Sudan Bill, passed by the Oregon Legislature in 2005. In that case, the Treasury was directed to withdraw funds from companies invested in Sudan, which they did, totaling over \$300 million in 2008–2014. This legislative directive was followed in such a way that the Treasury could maintain its fiduciary responsibility.

We need the COAL Act for many reasons:

The Oregon Treasury's holdings include the pensions of more than 400,000 Oregonians.

Coal is no longer a good investment.

Since California began removing coal from its CalPers portfolio, it has gained an estimated \$598 million in returns.

Oregon, on the other hand, has foregone \$340 million in returns, according to an analysis by Divest Oregon.

The act will decrease risk to PERS and the climate at a practical pace to address this urgent problem.

The COAL Act will improve Oregon's fiscal performance, as witnessed by its coal investments' \$340 million underperformance in the past decade in publicly traded investments.

Not acting urgently will expose the portfolio to stranded assets and related losses in value.

Coal is damaging to the environment, climate, and 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of HB 4083.