



**ECUMENICAL
MINISTRIES**
— OF OREGON —

February 22, 2024

Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Findley and Members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment,

My name is Taylor Silvey, and I am the Public Relations and Public Health Coordinator at Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon. EMO is proud to engage in the community as a provider of services, as an advocacy partner and as an association of 15 member denominations that represent nearly 750 congregations across the state.

EMO urges your support of HB 4083, the COAL Act.

As part of our statewide work, EMO supports local community resilience networks and hubs designed to strengthen public health and equip our neighbors to withstand the challenges of a changing climate. Earlier this month, EMO hosted our eleventh annual Interfaith Earth Summit. Individuals participated virtually and in-person at places of worship in Bend, Dallas, Eugene, Medford, Newport, Pendleton, Portland and elsewhere. Participants engaged the urgent issues of health and resilience and discussed the need for the COAL Act. It was heartbreaking for participants to learn that Oregon invests over a billion dollars in coal, despite how harmful this is to the health of Oregon communities, and communities globally.

EMO a decade ago divested from the top 200 fossil fuel companies. We urge this committee to support HB 4083, joining EMO and hundreds of other organizations, denominations and governmental entities across the world that have divested from coal, seeking more secure investment returns and a healthier climate.

Sincerely,

Taylor Silvey
Public Relations and Public Health Coordinator
Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon