



Testimony from Dr. Andy Harris in Support of HB 4036, Submitted 2/1/16

As an Advisory Board Member of, Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility, I urge your support for HB 4036, the Oregon Clean Electricity and Coal Transition Plan.

Of all the fossil fuels, coal is the dirtiest and most polluting. People at greatest risk are children, the elderly, and people with asthma, COPD and chronic heart disease. Whether in Oregon or in neighboring states, coal fueled power plants tend to be located in low-income neighborhoods where mercury, lead, arsenic, cadmium, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, ozone and other toxic emissions affect vulnerable populations.

HB 4035 transitions Oregon off of coal energy by 2030. At the same time the bill incrementally increases electricity produced from renewable energy sources to 50% by 2040. The net effect will not only improve the health of Oregonians but will mitigate Oregon's contribution to climate change.

Coal is a 19th and 20th century fossil fuel that contributes to the heating of our planet. The continued mining, shipping and burning of coal is irresponsible. Coal endangers the lives of those who are living on the margins, where they are vulnerable to storms, floods, droughts and other extreme weather events.

Physicians fight for the lives of patients in ICUs and CCUs around the state on a daily basis. Knowing the adverse health effects of coal, we can do no less in the hearing rooms of the Oregon Legislature.

Thank you for supporting HB 4036.

Andy Harris, MD
Advisory Board Member
Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility

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