

Submitter: Taryn Oakley

On Behalf
Of:

Committee: House Committee On Emergency Management, General
Government, and Veterans

Measure: HB4083

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

I am writing today because as a PERS member, I am one of the more than 400,000 Oregonians whose pensions are managed by the Oregon Treasury. I am also a science teacher, a mother, a volunteer, a lover of nature, and a proud Oregonian.

I am in strong support of the COAL Act, HB 4083. Coal should have been removed from our portfolio years ago and divesting from it now is the least we can do to protect our retirement funds and our planet. Since California began removing coal from its CALPERS portfolio, it has gained an estimated \$598 million. Oregon, on the other hand, has foregone \$340 million in returns, according to an analysis by Divest Oregon, by continuing to invest in coal. We decommissioned our only coal plant years ago: why are we still investing in what we know is not sustainable?

Coal is also a detriment to our health and our planet. The smoke filled summers, lack of snow, and continuous atmospheric rivers should be a sign that we need change and we need it now. Let's show the world that Oregon is a leader. Let's divest from coal now as we work towards divesting our pensions from all fossil fuels.

Please vote the COAL Act out of committee. Thank you for your support of HB 4083.

Thank you for this opportunity to share my thoughts.

Sincerely,

Taryn Oakley

Oregon resident, PERS member, and concerned teacher and scientist