

Submitter: William Ripple

On Behalf
Of:

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

Measure: HB4083

My name is William J. Ripple. I am a distinguished professor at Oregon State University, where I do research and publish on climate change and climate policy. I am providing my title and affiliation for identification purposes only. I am the co-lead author of “The 2023 state of the climate report: Entering uncharted territory” published in BioScience in October of 2023. The views I express here are only mine and may or may not be consistent with those of my employer, Oregon State University. I strongly support the Coal Act (HB 4083) that tells the state treasurer to stop investing funds in companies that deal in thermal coal. Oregon stands at a critical juncture, facing a crucial decision that will shape its environmental legacy for generations – the imperative to divest from thermal coal. Thermal coal, a major contributor to energy generation through combustion, has long been linked to environmental degradation and climate change. By divesting from thermal coal, Oregon can actively contribute to the global fight against climate change and champion cleaner, sustainable energy alternatives. With a rich history of environmental responsibility, divestment from thermal coal aligns seamlessly with Oregon's ethos. The extraction and combustion of coal significantly contribute to greenhouse gas emissions, posing serious threats to air and water quality. Divestment not only protects people and ecosystems, but also positions Oregon as a leader in responsible and sustainable investment practices.