



Sustainable Cottage Grove

www.SustainableCottageGrove.org

RE: HB 4083 (Pham) – COAL Act (Clean Oregon Assets Legislation) - SUPPORT

Honorable Charlie Conrad
900 Court St., NE, H-483
Salem, OR 97301

February 7, 2024

Dear Representative Conrad,

I am writing to express the strong support of Sustainable Cottage Grove, a grassroots community organization, for HB 4083, the Clean Oregon Assets legislation, and to urge you to vote YES to move the bill out of committee.

HB 4083 is critical for many reasons, most notably protecting the financial health of Oregon and our PERS beneficiaries. Not only does continued investment in fossil fuel industries, especially coal, harm our state and our PERS beneficiaries, but it also locks in continued harm to the climate, which ultimately harms our economy and our quality of life.

Just recently, we saw how more extreme weather can impact our communities. Cottage Grove, where I live, saw many thousands of residents without power for at least a week, with many being in the dark and the cold for twice that long. We can't trace any individual weather event to any specific contributions of greenhouse gases, but we know that climate change and the continued pumping of carbon into the atmosphere make extreme weather more common and more severe. We know that the increased heat and dryness and the extended wildfire season are the other side of that coin, where we Oregonians have endured many weeks with smoke that damages our health and affects our communities. Continued investment in coal is absolutely the worst thing that we could be doing, and we hope that Oregon, through its Treasury, can demonstrate leadership with better, more fiscally responsible investment policies.

Please support HB 4083. It's important to our communities, our families, our economies, and especially our PERS beneficiaries.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

Rob Dickinson, on behalf of Sustainable Cottage Grove
Cottage Grove
House District 12

About Sustainable Cottage Grove

Sustainable Cottage Grove is a 501c3 nonprofit organization (though our fiscal sponsor Another Way Enterprises) in Cottage Grove, OR that focuses on building a sustainable, resilient, and interdependent community. We combine practical education on sustainability skills, such as food gardening and production, food preservation, healthy living and nutrition education, with educational community events designed to build awareness on issues of importance to our community. We are an active partner in a range of projects promoting food system sustainability, including community and school gardens.