

Submitter: Lynn Handlin

On Behalf
Of:

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

Measure: HB4083

We are an environmental justice group in Portland, working to educate the public about the climate emergency, demanding that government and media tell us the truth, make drastic emissions reductions, convene citizens' assemblies to make decisions, and create a just transition to a fossil free world.

I strongly support the COAL Act (HB 4083). We need to divest now from fossil fuels and this is the first step of many we will need to take. Oregon's pension fund will be stronger when divested from this obsolete, dirty industry. As a tax professional I help people with retirement issues including PERS. When the subject comes up, many already knew, and now I have informed them more, that their retirement money is funding climate change. They are not at all happy. This step must be taken now, it should have been years ago. This is a long term disaster for us all, and a bad financial move for the mid and long term as well.

The science is very clear. In Oregon, we are already feeling devastating impacts from the burning of fossil fuels and we are more protected than much of the rest of the globe. A future for the next generation demands that we reduce emissions sharply right now. No money should be invested in any fossil fuel operation. The COAL act is one small step of many Oregon will need to take to protect our beautiful ecosystems and our children's future. Please support this small step and build upon it.