

Submitter: Maleek Mckenzie

On Behalf  
Of:

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

Measure: HB4083

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 4083. My name is Maleek Mckenzie, I work at one of the Intel campuses in Hillsboro, and I love to enjoy the environment the wonderful state of Oregon has.

I support HB 4083 as coal is a dying investment due to it falling out of favor for other forms of energy generation and it is going to become increasingly expensive to mine as we go through our reserves, further devaluing it. Furthermore, coal mining and usage has been repeatedly linked to numerous negative health effects such as cancer, cardiovascular disease, respiratory disease, kidney disease, mental health problems, adverse birth outcomes, and impaired child development, among others. Subsequently, coal has also been linked to environmental damage to air, soil, and waterways. Both of which will cost Oregonian taxpayers money to resolve. In effect coal investments are very likely to be worth less than they appear, due to the combination of increased healthcare cost, and environmental remediation cost from its continued procurement and usage.

I would also like to add that the definition of "clean energy" in Section 1 of the bill would prevent investment in companies within the renewable energy sector, as the procurement of rare earth elements such as Lithium, Cobalt, Silicon, etc. which are used to make devices needed for renewable energy generation produces pollutants and greenhouse gases in their acquisition. I strongly advise that the definition of "clean energy" be amended to omit the word "acquisition". This would not weaken the bill as coal usage is impossible without generating greenhouse gases. With the renewable energy sector projected to grow by leaps and bounds, especially due to decreased cost, and increased government investment, Oregon would be missing out on potentially valuable investment opportunities which will help to ensure that divestment from coal won't come at a monetary loss as the bill demands.

Please vote the COAL Act out of committee. Thank you for your support of HB 4083. Oregon needs to be a leader.

Sincerely,

Maleek Mckenzie, Hillsboro