

To: Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
From: Deborah Ferrer, The Dalles, OR
Re: Support for HB 4083, the C.O.A.L. Act
Date: February 24, 2024

Chair Sollman, Vice Chair Findley, Members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment:

After watching the new Netflix documentary, "The Greatest Night in Pop," I often find myself humming that most influential of songs throughout the day. I found myself doing it once again as I sat down to write this testimony, and it occurred to me that the song's opening lines are as relevant today as they were when it was recorded almost 40 years ago.

"There comes a time, when we heed a certain call, when the world must come together as one." (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9AjkUyX0rVw>)

In 1985, it was about famine. Today, it's about climate change.

Everyone who understands the science, and is not blinded by dogmatic faith in leaders beholden to the greedy and powerful fossil fuel industry, understands that climate change is the challenge of our lifetime.

The Oregon Legislature has been hamstrung in their efforts to address climate change for the past 6 years because of walkouts or threats of walkouts by Republicans. We have a lot of catching up to do and the C.O.A.L. Act is a small but important start.

As a retired high school science teacher (who has been teaching about the scientific evidence for and impacts of climate change since the 1980s), I am also a member of PERS. My retirement security depends on wise investments by the Oregon Investment Council. Investing in coal is NOT wise. It is a dying industry, and rightly so. (<https://www.iea.org/news/global-coal-demand-expected-to-decline-in-coming-years>)

For my personal IRA and other investments, I have completely divested of all funds connected to the fossil fuel industry, and I am happy to report that those accounts have not suffered in the least. If I can do this, I am confident that the expert members of the OIC are capable of choosing wiser investments than coal, the worst of all the fossil fuel energy sources.

Please vote to pass HB 4083, for PERS members like me, and for our children and grandchildren.

Sincerely,
Deborah Ferrer