

Dear former colleagues,

I am writing to you not only as citizen, and a Multnomah County Commissioner who represents many ratepayers in the Portland metropolitan area, but also as a former Chair of the House Energy and Environment Committee.

I urge you to support HB 4036, the Oregon Clean Electricity and Coal Transition Plan.

Like many of you, I am deeply concerned about climate change, and the impact of our electricity system on our environment. Likewise, I am keenly aware of the need to protect our most vulnerable residents and our businesses from rate shocks. HB 4036 helps with both of these challenges.

HB 4036 is the product of an unprecedented collaboration between an environmental coalition, electric utilities, and ratepayer advocates. Never in my time in the legislature did I see another bill of this importance and magnitude achieve a similar level of broad consensus. It speaks volumes about the hard work put in by all sides, and the legislators involved in the process.

As you know, HB 4036 will move Oregon's electric utilities to a 50% renewable portfolio standard by 2040, and phase out coal generated electricity by 2030. These would be remarkable achievements for Oregon, and help make our state among the leaders in renewable energy generation and consumption. Renewable energy is not only good for the environment, it creates jobs that can't be outsourced, especially in rural areas of our state.

As HB 4036 implements these new requirements, it does so in a way that works with the electricity market, and protects ratepayer from shocks and disruptions in service. Under HB 4036, the consumers will face more protections than under any other scenario put forward for achieving the same carbon reductions.

I know each of you shares a commitment to creating jobs, protecting our environment, and to protecting our public. I urge you to support HB 4036, and with its swift passage, ensure Oregon's prosperous clean energy future.

Yours,

Jules Bailey