



June 25, 2021

From the Desk of Senator
Kathleen Taylor

Please Vote Yes on HB 2021C for 100% Clean Energy

Dear Senators,

As businesses, higher education institutions, health systems, investors, and employers in Oregon, we support policies that will help the state address climate change, protect public health, and ensure our state’s economy remains competitive. We write to express our strong support for House Bill 2021C, which would establish a goal to eliminate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the state’s electricity supply by 2040 with interim targets to ensure the state is on the right path. We applaud the diverse group of stakeholders, from environmental justice, utility, labor, business, rural, municipal and other perspectives, and the numerous legislators who have worked to draft and amend this consensus legislation.

By further accelerating and expanding Oregon’s clean energy targets, this bill will help position the state to achieve its GHG emission reduction goals. Cleaning up the grid is also crucial to maximizing the benefits of electrifying our transportation system and other major energy uses, while driving innovation throughout our economy. The bill also encourages the development of local clean energy projects that would create cost savings and jobs throughout Oregon.

A growing number of companies, both large and small, have set goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and invest in clean energy. Colleges and universities are also making bold commitments to address climate change and resilience, integrating these into their curriculum, research, and campus operations. Procuring clean energy helps large energy users save money, hedge against volatile fuel prices, and stay competitive.

Clean energy not only makes economic sense, but it is also the expectation of our customers, employees, investors, and students. States with robust clean energy standards create policy certainty, attracting large energy users seeking to make long-term investments consistent with meeting our sustainability and financial goals.

Tackling climate change is an economic opportunity for Oregon. Accelerating and expanding Oregon’s clean energy goals is a key next step to ensure the state’s vibrant and robust clean energy economy continues to grow. A recent report found that more than 56,000 Oregonians were employed in clean energy in 2019.

Increasing the requirements of Oregon's clean energy targets will help provide the necessary market signals for businesses to make additional clean energy investments in Oregon and help the state's economy swiftly recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

House Bill 2021C includes important provisions to protect the health of residents in communities of color and low-wealth communities, which are disproportionately impacted by pollution and most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Smart provisions aim not only to reduce pollution in these communities, but also bring more voices to the table to intentionally invest in environmental justice communities and help create jobs at all levels and throughout the state.

An increasing number of states recognize that reaching 100% clean energy, while ambitious, is achievable. Setting this new standard would help the state continue to capture additional economic benefits and send a clear signal that Oregon aims to be a player in the growing clean energy economy.

For these reasons, **we respectfully urge you to vote yes on HB 2021C.**