



Native American Youth and Family Center

5135 NE Columbia Blvd, Portland, OR 97218 | p 503.288.8177 | f 503.288.1260 | nayapdx.org

March 16, 2021

To: Chair March, Vice-Chair Helm, Vice-Chair Brock Smith, and Members of the House Committee on Energy & Environment

RE: House Bill 2021 Support

My name is Rebecca Descombes (Inupiat) and I have the honor of serving as the Health & Environment Policy Coordinator with the Native American Youth and Family Center (NAYA). NAYA's wraparound programs directly serve over 2,000 individual Native American youth, adults, and Elders every year and positively impacts more than 10,000 lives throughout Portland's growing urban Native community.

House Bill 2021 can help ensure that the communities in Oregon that are struggling the most from the pandemic and its economic impacts, extreme weather events, and wildfires are the same communities that benefit from clean energy. Wildfires that swept across Oregon in 2020 disproportionately impacted Indigenous communities burning through Tribal reservations and sacred lands. We have the opportunity to build a strong, resilient, and clean energy economy in our communities by ensuring that Oregon's 100% Clean Energy Standard includes:

- Provisions that prioritize benefits and avoid harms to environmental justice communities including BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and people of color), Tribal, low-income communities, and rural and coastal communities.
- Strong labor standards that break down barriers for BIPOC, Tribal, low-income communities, and rural and coastal communities to ensure clean energy projects hire local, pay the prevailing wage and provide good benefits, and opportunities for apprenticeship programs.

On behalf of the Native American Youth and Family Center (NAYA) we urge you to support House Bill 2021 so that Oregon communities are sure to benefit from the transition to clean energy.

Quyanaqpak,

Rebecca Descombes
Health & Environment Policy Coordinator
Native American Youth and Family Center