

Testimony to House Energy & Environment Committee HB 2021: 100% Clean Energy for All

Chair Marsh, Vice-Chairs Helm and Brock Smith, and Members of the House Committee on Energy & Environment,

I am an energy policy expert and resident of Gresham. I organize with the Metro Climate Action Team, which is a community of volunteers working to ensure Oregon is a leader in addressing the climate crisis.

I urge you to support House Bill 2021 to put Oregon on a track to reach 100% clean electricity generation by 2040. In addition to the pandemic and the economic crisis it has caused, rural and urban communities in Oregon are also suffering from the economic and health impacts of the climate crisis, through wildfires, smoke pollution, drought and extreme weather events and this climate crisis is only going to get worse unless we act quickly. That is why the Oregon legislature must take action to ensure the transition to 100% clean electricity.

HB 2021 can help us to build a strong, resilient, and clean energy economy that and will directly benefit many if our impacted communities by ensuring that Oregon's 100% Clean Energy Standard includes:

- Strong labor standards that ensure clean energy projects hire local, pay the prevailing wage and provide good benefits, and reserve opportunities for apprenticeships.
- Good incentives for community-based energy projects such as solar plus storage that increase energy independence, affordability, and disaster-resilience.
- Provisions that prioritize benefits and avoid harms to environmental justice communities including BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and people of color), low-income communities, Tribes, and rural and coastal communities.

To avoid the worst impacts of climate change we need to transition quickly to clean electricity. Eighteen other states have already set some form of 100% clean electricity standard, and Oregon needs to step-up and not get left behind in this transition to a clean energy future. Oregon is blessed with significant renewable resources, including a tremendous potential for off-shore wind, which if developed would revitalize our southern coast.

By setting clear targets for cleaning up Oregon's electricity and supporting community-based energy projects and good jobs for local communities, we can seize the opportunity of clean energy to help rebuild from today's many crises.

Thank you for your time and for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2021. Please support a strong 100% Clean Energy Standard with good jobs and community-based energy projects for Oregonians.

Sincerely,
Dr. Pat DeLaquil
155 SE 16th Ct.
Gresham, OR 97080