

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of HB2021. The time is not next year, or next session, or in 5 years to take action on climate change. The time is **now**. I am 24, an environmental justice advocate, a concerned citizen of this planet, protector of my generation and those to come, and chair of the DPO's Environmental Caucus' Oregon Green New Deal Committee.¹ I write to you today in emphatic support of the 100% Clean Energy for All bill (HB2021).

A just transition emphasizes a rapid transition from fossil fuel emissions and carbon-emitting energy sources to non-emitting and carbon-free energy sources while prioritizing economic growth for local communities, well-paying jobs, and incentives for community-based energy projects that support resilience and justice for front-line communities. This is what the 100% Clean Energy for All bill can activate. It has tremendous potential to increase local community ownership of energy, job opportunities and economic development, and the health and safety of communities throughout the state.

The global community and our own state of Oregon have agreed; we must limit global warming to no more than 1.5°C (2.7°F) or face catastrophic tipping points of environmental disaster. The Oregon Global Warming Commission stated in the [2020 Biennial Report to the Oregon Legislature](#), “*To be clear and to the point, Oregon has not made the progress envisioned in the Oregon Global Warming Commission’s [Roadmap to 2020](#). We are not on track to meet our 2020 emission reduction goal.* Preliminary 2019 sector-based emissions data exceeds the state’s 2020 emissions reduction goal by 26 percent or 13 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e), erasing all of the gains we had made since 2010. While it needs to be updated, our current projection estimates that we will miss the 2035 and the 2050 goals set forth in [Governor Brown’s Executive Order 20-04](#) by 23 and 54 million metric tons CO₂e respectively”.

This is our chance to take these bold actions. To be brave in meeting the challenges of our time. Considering that the energy sector produces roughly a third of our statewide emissions, this bill targets an important sector to move strategically towards our state-wide emission goals.

Though both amendments (-1, -3) are pathways to our goal of non-emitting energy sources, I would like to see -1 as a goal of 100% by 2040 be brought forth as it establishes sooner goals and defines non-emitting energy in a way that more explicitly excludes carbon residual energy sources. A major concern in -1, however, is the exemption of bio-mass fuel sources. This method of burning trees is not an effective solution as it requires the removal of trees, an existing carbon-sink, has the potential for the release of toxic pollutants during combustion, and the “renewability” timeline of this resource does not match our need for rapid emission reductions.

I hope some minor changes can be made to this bill to make it an even stronger piece of legislation as a much-needed set of goals for our community, state and world.

Thank you,
Xanthia Wolland

¹ I do not speak for the Democratic Party of Oregon or the Environmental Caucus as a whole.