

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

I am writing in support of House Bill 2021, 100% Clean Energy for All. Like a challenging syllabus or an assertive business plan, it lays out a set of priorities and goals and timelines for our state as we move out of pandemic mode and into economic and environmental recovery. As an educational assistant working with special education students, it has been important for me, daily, to balance the big picture with the achievable goal. All of us, worldwide, are now in a position of being easily overwhelmed by the scale and speed of climate change. Reality is hitting at the same time as many struggle to maintain shelter, food, and family health and safety. I'm impressed that HB 2021 addresses the multiplicity of our problems: the economy, the climate, and the vulnerability of many in our state to pollution, uncertain work, failing industries, frayed safety nets, and inequities built right into our social fabric.

Though I've only been an Oregonian for half my life, I am proud of Oregon's history of environmental progress—protecting out beaches for public use, banning plastic bags, bottle bills and recycling. Unfortunately, we sometimes jump on the wrong train. For instance, Biomass energy production may sound sustainable and renewable, but actually needs far too many trees (and thus encourages cutting) and causes pollution to boot. It is clear protection of our forests is among the biggest contributions Oregon can make to mitigating climate change. I am also horrified at the notion of further justifying Confined Animal Feed Operations by using by-products to produce energy. Animal husbandry is responsible for a large portion of methane release. (Please see the attached diagram taken from a university study, "Livestock and climate change: impact of live-stock on climate and mitigation strategies." Downloaded from <https://academic.oup.com/af/article/9/1/69/5173494>) I urge you to do your research thoroughly as you lay out the details of this bill, avoiding unscientific claims and threats from Oregon's largest industries that will soon, of necessity and like all of us, be seeing the light of change. Please realize that what Oregon subsidizes now will have huge implications for our ability to weather the storms ahead. Let's not pay for dead ends and short sighted profits. All the more praise for developing a set of ideals to guide us.

All of us are in for a bumpy ride, the cost of skimming along for so many decades on our fossil fuel high. I thank you for heading down the path to a better, fairer future with HB 2021.

Sincerely,  
Teresa Mueller