

In Support of HB 2021 - 100% Clean Energy for All  
House Committee on Energy and Environment, 3-22-21

Chair Marsh and Vice-Chairs Helm and Smith,

My name is Andy Harris, and I am speaking in support of HB 2021 on behalf of Oregon Coalition of Christian Voices (OCCV). We assess public policies from our faith perspective and advocate for the common good, especially for those people who are marginalized in our society and whose voices frequently are not heard.

It seems remarkable that in 2021 we are still having a discussion about the need to transition off fossil fuels, when our planet has already heated to the point of uncontrolled wildfires, rising sea levels and powerful hurricanes. Climate disruption affects all of us, but it is poor people who take the brunt of burning carbon, from those living near polluting power plants, to those living amidst the unbearable heat of the tropics.

A transition to clean energy creates economic development. The increase in electrical infrastructure to supply solar and wind power will require the training and employment of workers across Oregon. 100% Clean Energy for All must include strong labor standards, rural and low-income communities, and economic opportunities for Black, indigenous and other people of color.

Transitioning to clean, renewable energy also protects the health and safety of our communities. The burning of fossil fuels is associated with increased asthma, COPD, heart disease, lung cancer, and Alzheimer's. Poor and marginalized people are the most vulnerable. By contrast, renewable energy sources avoid the health hazards of fossil fuels.

My only disappointment is that if enacted, this bill will not require the PUC to make its recommendations to the legislature until a year and a half from now.

On behalf of OCCV I would encourage your support of 100% Clean Energy for All for the sake of our planet, our health, and our most vulnerable residents.

Thank you.

Andy Harris  
Board of Directors  
Oregon Coalition of Christian Voices