

March 22, 2021

Chair Marsh, Vice-Chair Helm, Vice-Chair Brock Smith, and Members of the House Committee on Energy and Environment:
Thank you for an opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 2021, 100% Clean Energy for All. I am a Portland resident (since 1973) and recently have become involved with the Democratic Party of Oregon Environmental Caucus. I am a longtime supporter of clean energy and base who I vote for primarily on their position on environmental issues. Prior to my retirement 3 years ago I worked for the City of Portland for over 26 years.

I urge you to support HB 2021 so that all Oregon communities can benefit from clean energy. This bill provides an opportunity to increase community ownership of energy as well as providing economic development and job opportunities. The labor standards ensure those hired are local, that prevailing wage is paid and that health benefits and retirement benefits are required. These are all positive aspects of the bill, although I hope the final legislation is clear that provisions of a collective bargaining agreement prevail to minimize conflict between what the legislation requires and what is in those contracts.

Most important of course, is this bill is a huge step towards clean energy and will reduce the negative health impacts of current sources of energy, particularly on BIPOC and low-income communities. Our neighbors to the north and to the south are moving in this direction and Oregon needs to continue to be a leader and pioneer. Our future is at stake.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Anna Kanwit, Portland, Oregon