

3/22/2021

Chair Marsh, Vice-Chair Helm, Vice-Chair Brock Smith, and Members of the house committee on Energy and Environment

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of house bill 2021, 100% clean energy for all. My name is Elvira and I live in Gales Creek Oregon. I am the mother of 4. I occupy my time helping the community.

I urge you to support House Bill 2021 so that Oregon communities can benefit from the transition to clean energy. House Bill 2021 can help us to ensure that the communities in Oregon that are struggling the most from the pandemic and its economic impacts, extreme weather events, and wildfires are the same communities that benefit from clean energy. That is why the Oregon legislature must take action.

This would help my community since I live in a rural area. It would help during the winter when snow falls. Recently, due to the snow, we were left with no electricity for up to a week. In this area where I live there are a lot of kids and elderly people that were impacted by the snow. Our home depends on electricity for heat and that makes the electric bill a lot higher. For that reason, It is hard for people like me to afford paying the energy bills. If you support this bill my community would benefit by not staying without electricity for a whole week, and we would be more likely to afford paying the energy bill. This bill would also help open up more jobs for the people in need of employment.

We can build a strong, resilient, and clean energy economy in our 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.

We have the opportunities to increase local community ownership of energy, job opportunities and economic development, and the health and safety of communities throughout the state. Globally, the burning of fossil fuels was responsible for 20% of deaths in 2018 and pollution from facilities like gas-fired power plants leads to worse outcomes of COVID-19. 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 the House Bill 2021. Please support a strong 100% Clean Energy Standards with good jobs and community-based energy projects for Oregonians.

Sincerely,

Elvira J.