

March 22, 2021

House Energy & Environment Committee
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

RE: House Bill 2021

Dear Chair Marsh, Vice-Chair Brock Smith, Vice-Chair Helm, and members of the committee,

I am retired, live in Portland and organize with the Metro Climate Action Team, which is a community of volunteers working to ensure Oregon is a leader in addressing the climate crisis. I also work with another community of volunteers focused on the responsible development of offshore wind energy on Oregon's south coast.

The climate crisis is now the overarching threat and how we deal with it will ultimately determine our success as a functioning society. And because energy is at the core of everything we do, make or use, transitioning to clean form of it can be a substantial economic opportunity. Making the right policy choices with HB-2021 and additional amendments could deliver the win/win we all seek. While that is a challenging task, today's hearing demonstrated to me that the committee has that goal in its sights and is listening to a wide range stakeholders.

To mitigate the climate crisis at this late stage now requires a policy implementation that results in bringing additional clean generation as soon as possible. "Clean" should include all generation that does not release green house gases and exclude those that do. A policy that accomplishes those objectives will open the economic opportunity represented by Oregon's abundant wind and solar resources. This can bring transformative economic development to regions that need it and bring essential benefits to many impacted communities. It could even transform Oregon from an importer of dirty energy to an exporter of clean energy.

Sincerely,

Michael Mitton
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