

I urge you to support House Bill 2021 so that Oregon communities are sure to 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.

Transitioning to electric vehicles is an important step in solving the climate crisis, but that step can't be completed until the State provides 100% clean energy to power those cars. We have the ability now to transition away from harmful fossil fuel infrastructure and help imagine a better and more just world.

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 opportunity 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 House Bill 2021. Please support a strong 100% Clean Energy Standard with good jobs and community-based energy projects for Oregonians.

Sincerely,
Paxton Rothwell