



March 23, 2021

To: Chair Marsh, Vice-Chair Helm, Vice-Chair Brock Smith, and Members of the House Committee on Energy & Environment,

RE: House Bill 2021, 100% Clean Energy for All.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2021, 100% Clean Energy for All. My name is Ana Molina, and I with Beyond Toxics a statewide environmental justice organization as their Statewide Environmental Justice Organizer, working on advancing policies that ensure meaningful participation and cultivate grassroots leadership from Oregon's frontline and impacted communities. As an organization that works at the intersection of race and public health we ask you to pass a strong HB 2021 to achieve 100% clean energy for all Oregonians.

Through House Bill 2021 we have an opportunity 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 communities across Oregon are already facing climate change impacts.

As an organization that works on advancing policies that ensure meaningful participation from grassroots leadership in Oregon's frontline and impacted communities we recognize that HB 2021 must include required thresholds and hiring targets for women, BIPOC, and marginalized groups in the clean energy workforce, and ensure that workers are paid prevailing wages with benefits and apprenticeship opportunities. This will secure good, well-paying local energy jobs to local communities and set them on path to a just transition.

We work with the community in West Eugene who is already disproportionately affected by air pollution in their neighborhood. Communities of color are also disproportionately burdened by the fossil fuel economy, banning the siting of new natural gas facilities in the state is a great step forward to building a more equitable energy system. This ban, therefore, must not exclude facilities that generate electricity from "renewable natural gas." This standard must also result in real, tangible emission reductions, so maintaining strong mandated targets to reach 100% clean by 2040, and strong interim targets will help ensure we're on track to achieving the emission reduction goals.

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.

We are proud to be part of the coalition of organizations working to set this critical standard for the state and strongly urge your support for a stronger HB 2021 amendment that creates good jobs and community-based energy projects for Oregonians.

Sincerely,
Ana Molina
Eugene, Oregon
Beyond Toxics
Statewide Environmental Justice Projects Manager