

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2021, 100% Clean Energy for All. My name is Jacinta, and I'm a PNW native who's called Portland home for the last year and a half. During the week I work as an engineer, troubleshooting problems and investigating improvements in renewable energy projects. I went into the industry straight out of school because climate change is one of the most pressing issues of our time, and renewable electricity coupled with energy storage is one of the key parts of the solution.

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.

The Clean Energy For All bill matters to me because I've seen firsthand the benefits that jobs in the renewables field can bring to rural communities, but also how the reach can be limited. As a frequent bike rider, I see parallels in the bike lanes and bikeways that benefit central Portland residents but fail to extend effectively to the city's outskirts, where they are not without controversy. We need to ensure that as we do the necessary work to convert to 100% renewables, all Oregon communities benefit. I believe the Clean Energy For All bill is the best means we have to push towards the renewable energy future we need in a more equitable way.

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,
Jacinta
Portland, OR