

Chairs 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. I have been living and working on a sustainable farm in the Columbia River Gorge for more than three decades, raising my family, tutoring adult literacy and assisting adults in accessible education, as well as serving my community and environment in various volunteer roles. My community was directly affected by the Columbia Gorge wildfire of 2017 and many residents and livestock were evacuated or in an evacuation status as smoke, ash, and burning leaves fell on our homes and farms. A few tragically lost their homes. It was a crisis situation, but it was a foreshadowing of the raging climate fires of 2020 where more communities around Oregon suffered similar tragic outcomes. During that terrible time, I sheltered animals for two families in Sandy and Estacada who had been evacuated from their homes, while my neighbors and I, like many Oregonians, struggled to breathe clean air, even within our homes. It was reported that our area experienced the highest toxicity levels of air quality in the world at that time.

Please support House Bill 2021 so that Oregon communities such as mine can benefit from clean energy, economic opportunities, and disaster-resilience by increasing local community ownership of energy, such as solar plus storage, good job opportunities and a safe and healthy environment for all.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Hood