

Hello Members of the House Committee on Energy & Environment,

My name is Diane Ware. I've lived in the Rogue Valley for 50 years, teaching rural children for 30. In 2010 My husband and I moved out of our home in the forest above Sams Valley to escape our worries of losing everything to forest fires. We built an energy efficient, fire-resistant home in Talent and sold this home in 2016 when we moved to a Medford retirement community. Our beloved Talent home burned to the ground in the extraordinary wind-driven Alameda Fire with thousands of others.

I endorse the opportunities HB 2021 can create for affordable, community based clean energy projects that can be paired with battery storage or micro grids. These build community resilience and allow access to electricity and critical services when disasters strike.

Recently we were able to invest in a community solar project in Talent. I want the hope and benefits we experience to be widely available to communities of color and low-income communities which are hit first and hardest by disasters. Community based energy projects provide economic benefits by lowering energy costs and increasing community ownership of energy, which helps build long term wealth in communities that need it.

All Oregonians are helped when HB 2021 supports strong labor standards, the paying of prevailing wages and apprenticeship opportunities. Also while maintaining strong targets to reach 100% Clean Energy by 2040 will help ensure we're on track to achieve our emission reduction goals.

I urge your support and collaboration in refining and making HB 2021 the best energy policy it can be.

Thank you,

Diane Ware