



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Testimony in Support of HB 2021-5, -9

April 7, 2021

Chair Marsh, Vice Chair Brock Smith, and members of the committee,

For the record, my name is Khanh Pham. I represent House District 46, and I am honored to testify today regarding House Bill 2021 and particularly the -5 and -9 amendments.

I have been so glad to support community organizing before this session to help set the stage for this collaborative policy. And I am heartened to see that so many different stakeholders have come together under difficult circumstances to find common ground, compromise, and find consensus. This is a different face and approach to climate policy, one that the communities I serve see themselves in more than past efforts. The -5 amendments come a long way from where the -1 amendments were, and the **-9** amendments represent a substantial, targeted investment in **community-based** renewable energy projects. I believe we have common goals that can be achieved in HB 2021: creating economic development in the parts of Oregon that need it most, ensuring that Oregon workers are well-supported in entering and participating in the clean energy workforce, and ensuring that at every step of the way, BIPOC, low-income, rural, and coastal communities are shaping the transition to 100% clean electricity and are not left out of the benefits.

The values underpinning 100% Clean Energy for All are **central to why I wanted to become a legislator**. I ran to represent my district because I want to ensure that Oregon would be healthy to live in for my daughter and future generations to come. Oregon has experienced unprecedented wildfires, intense ice storms, and each summer the heat gets more and more intense. These examples underscore a need to adapt to a changing climate and the need to address resiliency. We need to seek out justice-based solutions to these challenges in every sector.

Colleagues, we have an opportunity to pass a strong 100% clean electricity bill through the -5s and -9s that would be a giant step in the right direction to do our part to curb emissions while seeding local projects for community ownership of electricity, **good-paying jobs that contribute to economic development**, and storage and microgrids that help us become **more resilient** to future disasters. These amendments have been written in a way to include any viable technology that the state can procure that does not place undue harm or burden on environmental justice communities. By setting **clear** targets for generating all our electricity from renewable and non-emitting sources, **we can clear the way for benefits spanning the entire state, from development of solar on the east side of the Cascades to offshore wind along the Pacific coastline**. There can be investment into **battery development** and time of use electricity rates that will help create a "smart grid". The buildout of green infrastructure will spur jobs throughout Oregon. Moving our state away from fossil fuels dependence will also help achieve our goals to mitigate the extreme weather events that will continue to occur.

We've had such diverse voices at the table creating this much needed policy. Constituents with all kinds of viewpoints including **environmental justice** organizations, **utilities, community** organizations, **renewable energy experts, and community members in the Energy Justice Leadership Institute** have been participating in this policy-making process. I look forward to

Oregon passing a 100% clean energy standard that benefits impacted communities and that will create the clean energy opportunities and investments that we need. For these reasons, I urge your support for HB 2021. Thank you.