

April 7, 2021 Hearing

Testimony to House Energy & Environment Committee on HB 2021-5: 100% Clean Energy for All

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

I live in Hillsboro and am deeply concerned for the future of human life on this planet, including my own children and grandchildren. I am a Team Lead organizing with grassroots climate action group 350.org Washington County. I urge you to immediately pass House Bill 2021-5 to put Oregon on a track to reach 100% clean electricity generation by 2040. In addition to the pandemic and the economic crisis it has caused, rural and urban communities in Oregon are also suffering from the economic and health impacts of the climate crisis, through wildfires, smoke pollution, drought and extreme weather events and this crisis is only going to get worse unless we act quickly. The Oregon legislature must take responsible and IMMEDIATE action to ensure the transition to 100% clean electricity, as there is no time left to waste.

Oregon communities, especially rural and environmental justice communities (BIPOC, rural & coastal, and low-income Oregonians) need new opportunities. Clean energy projects will create many immediate and permanent good jobs with substantial local economic and resiliency benefits.

House Bill 2021-5 sets clear, achievable targets for reducing emissions from Oregon's electricity grid, establishes strong labor standards for new clean energy projects, creates investments and opportunities for community-based renewable energy projects, and includes strong sideboards to ensure long-term affordability and reliability as we remake our energy system. The shift to 100% clean electricity is inevitable. This is Oregon's opportunity to do this in a way that works best for Oregon.

I fully support these goals and actions embodied in HB 2021-5:

CLEAN ENERGY TARGETS that utilize existing planning and regulatory structures to achieve:

- 80% clean by 2030, 90% clean by 2035 and 100% clean by 2040.

Minimizing environmental justice burdens = NO new siting of fossil fuel power plants

Maximizing community benefits

- Strong labor standards
- Study to move forward on Community-based Energy Projects
- Options for municipalities to set faster timelines for 100% clean

Protections for ratepayers

- Cost cap to minimize rate impacts
- Program pauses to address reliability & resource adequacy and accountability to get back on track

To avoid the worst impacts of climate change we need to transition as quickly as possible to clean electricity. Eighteen other states have already set some form of 100% clean electricity standard. Oregon has previously been a policy leader, and needs to step up now to not get left behind in this transition to a clean energy future. Oregon has significant potential for renewable resources, including plenty of sunshine and massive potential for off-shore wind, which if developed would absolutely revitalize our southern coast and result in many permanent well-paid jobs.

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 DO PASS HB 2021-5, a strong 100% Clean Energy Standard which will deliver good jobs and community-based energy projects for Oregonians.

Sincerely, Debby Garman Hillsboro, 97124