



To: Members of the House Committee on Energy and Environment
From: Julia DeGraw, Oregon Conservation Network
Date: March 23, 2021

RE: Support for HB 2021 with -5 and -9 Amendments – 100% Clean Energy for All

Chair Rep. Marsh Vice-Chairs Rep. Helm and Rep. Brock Smith, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on HB 2021 with the -5 and -9 amendments. On behalf of our thousands of members and supporters in Oregon, we would like to register the Oregon Conservation Network's strong support of 2021 – because Oregon needs to have a just and equitable transition to 100% clean energy for all as soon as possible.

The Oregon Conservation Network (OCN) is coordinated through the Oregon League of Conservation Voters. OCN is a coalition of 35 not-for-profit organizations throughout the state, united to advocate for pro-conservation legislation and to fight policies that threaten our state's natural legacy. OCN is powered by tens of thousands of Oregonians who belong to their membership organizations, the Oregon Environmental Council being one. We work to promote policies that will ensure a better Oregon for our children – and to fight policies that do not.

We write in support of HB 2021 with the -5 and -9 amendments and strongly urge support for passage of this 100% Clean Energy bill this year.

In the past twelve months both deadly wildfires and disruptive ice storms have harmed Oregonians, our homes, and our economy. These climate disruptions must be addressed with policies that address their root cause: climate pollution. 100% clean electricity policies are a proven policy solution and is a foundation for a clean energy powered economy. Oregon has no competitive advantage when it comes to fossil fuels. In fact, importing fossil fuels means we are merely exporting energy dollars. With a strong 100% Clean policy in place, Oregon can boost economic development, create good jobs, grow community resiliency, and improve health.

We at OCN know that 100% clean energy is a proven policy tool. Research shows that transitioning to a fossil fuel free grid can be affordable and feasible with existing technologies. Also, we would be in good company by passing this policy—joining eight other states that have already adopted 100% clean electricity policies, including California and Washington. Transitioning to 100% clean energy, done right, can be a boon or Oregon's economy, create good paying jobs across the state, and improve the health of Oregon's communities.

2021-5-9 gives Oregon the opportunity to increase local community ownership of energy, job opportunities and economic development, and the health and safety of communities throughout the state. In 2018, worldwide the burning of fossil fuels was responsible for 20% of deaths and pollution from facilities like gas-fired power plants leads to worse outcomes from COVID-19. By setting clear



targets (which this bill does) 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 and recover from today’s many crises.

With this bill Oregon 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.

100% clean energy policy can help communities today and future generations: clearer skies, better economic and job opportunities, more resilient communities, and equitable policies that protect Oregon’s special places and all of the people who call this magnificent state home.

We urge you to take the next step toward making this clean energy future possible by making some necessary changes, and then voting **YES on HB 2021 with amendments**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julia B. DeGraw".

Julia DeGraw
Oregon Conservation Network
Oregon League of Conservation Voters Coalition Director

Testimony Submitted On behalf of all the OCN Member Organizations:

1000 Friends of Oregon | Audubon Society of Portland | Beyond Toxics | Cascadia Wildlands | Center for Biological Diversity | Central Oregon Landwatch | Climate Solutions | Engineers for a Sustainable Future | Defenders of Wildlife | Environment Oregon | Friends of Mount Hood | Friends of the Columbia Gorge | Friends of Mt. Hood | Greater Hells Canyon Council | League of Women Voters of Oregon | Native Fish Society | Neighbors for Clean Air | Oceana | Oregon Coast Alliance | Oregon Environmental Council | Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility | Oregon League of Conservation Voters | Oregon Natural Desert Association | Oregon Land and Water Alliance | Oregon Wild | Renewable Northwest | Rogue Riverkeeper | Trout Unlimited | Tualatin Riverkeepers | Rogue Valley Audubon Society | Sierra Club Oregon Chapter | Surfrider Foundation | Umpqua Valley Audubon Society | WaterWatch of Oregon | Wild Salmon Center