

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2021 with the -5 and -9 amendments, the 100% Clean Energy for All bill. I am a small business owner in Portland and am working to make my business as environmentally friendly as possible. This includes eliminating shrinkwrap and plastic from our products and contributing a percentage of our profits to help plant trees. I would love to have access to 100% renewable energy to power my business and make it even more sustainable.

I urge you to support House Bill 2021 so that Oregon communities are sure to benefit from the transition to clean energy. House Bill 2021 will help us to ensure that the communities in Oregon that are struggling the most from the pandemic and its economic impacts, extreme weather events, and wildfires are the same communities that benefit from clean energy. That is why the Oregon legislature must take action.

As a small business owner I am working to create products that are useful and have value, but I do not want to do so at the expense of the planet. If I have access to more renewable sources of energy it will allow my company to be a leader in my industry and have a positive impact and influence on other companies.

We 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.

We have the opportunity to increase local community ownership of energy, job opportunities and economic development, and the health and safety of communities throughout the state. Globally, the burning of fossil fuels was responsible for 20% of deaths in 2018 and pollution from facilities like gas-fired power plants leads to worse outcomes of COVID-19. 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 support a strong 100% Clean Energy Standard with good jobs and community-based energy projects for Oregonians.

Sincerely,

Tim Eisner
Small business owner in Portland, Oregon.