

Chair Marsh, Vice-Chair Helm, Vice-Chair Brock Smith, and Members of the House Committee on Energy and 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 have lived in Eugene for over forty years and am a retired teacher. I am an avid walker, hiker, organic gardener, and grandmother! I have always cared deeply about our environment, renewable energy, clean water, our native people and equity. When we added on to our home many years ago we included design for a passive solar sun room and preheat our water with a passive solar system. We have always been involved in recycling, reusing, and water conservation. It is not enough for individuals to do what we can to help our Oregon. The enormity of what needs to be done for clean energy, good wage jobs, climate change, disaster mitigation, etc. will take legislative as well as individual action. We need to work together toward these goals.

I urge you to support House Bill 2021. Oregon communities need to benefit as we transition to clean energy. House Bill 2021 will help Oregon communities that may be struggling and suffering as a result of the pandemic, climate change related weather events, and wildfires that so devastated Oregon this past year. We can, working together and with study and foresight, build strong, resilient clean energy economy. We need to include strong standards for labor, local hiring, good pay and benefits. We need to promote and support community energy based projects such as solar, wind, energy storage. This will increase Oregon's energy independence (Oregon has always been at the forefront!) and disaster resistance, as well as affordability for such projects. We need to especially include provisions that prioritize benefits to under served, low income and BIPOC communities, and rural and coastal communities.

This is a great opportunity to promote and increase community ideas and ownership of energy, economic development and jobs. Let's increase the health and safety of all Oregon communities throughout the state. I just learned this alarming fact that the burning of fossil fuels was responsible for 20% of deaths in 2018! We can do something to change this. We can have clear goals and a time-line for supporting community based energy projects, good jobs, and clean electricity. Clean energy can help us rebuild from the many crises that face us today.

I have long thought my little valley with north/south prevalent winds, could become a model for wind and/or solar energy production. That is just one small idea. But the possibilities and the good this can do are endless.

Thank you so much for your time and for reading my testimony in support of House Bill 2021. Please do all in your power to support a strong 100% clean energy standard with good jobs and community-based energy projects for Oregon! Thank you!

Sincerely,
Wendy Schwall
Eugene, Oregon