

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

Thank you for giving citizens such as myself the opportunity to submit testimony in support of House Bill 2021, 100% Clean Energy for All. I am a United Church of Christ pastor in Beaverton, and I also have a Ph.D. in Christian Ethics with a focus on environmental and economic ethics and sustainable development.

I am writing to urge you to support HB 2021 because I believe it provides a unique opportunity to address several of the most pressing issues of our time: the need for good jobs in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the ticking time bomb of climate change, AND the need to bring together Oregonians from all backgrounds, races, and geographical areas around shared solutions to shared problems. As a religious leader, I am troubled by the increasing political polarization of our state and nation, and the politicization of issues that should unite rather than divide us. Two of these issues are the need for good jobs and the deterioration of our environment and climate system that's resulting in worsening natural disasters afflicting ALL Oregonians.

HB 2021 addresses these common threats by placing Oregon on a path to 100% Clean Energy that ensures that ALL Oregonians will benefit from the transition away from dirty fossil fuels. As a pastor and Christian Ethicist who understands the importance of people-centered environmental and energy policies, I support HB 2021 because it 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 rural, low-income, BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and people of color), and coastal communities and Tribes

We live in a time of unprecedented challenges that require us to respond with unprecedented energy and commitment in order to survive and thrive. We can no longer afford to allow ideological differences to block us from life-saving action. We have the opportunity to be modern-day Noahs, to build an ark of life that will carry us through the floods that threaten to overwhelm us--from pandemics, to climate change and climate-related natural disasters, to civil unrest. It's past time to realize that we either get on the ark together or we die alone.

I support House Bill 2021 because it will get Oregon on track to non-polluting energy that creates good jobs in our communities and community-based energy projects that increase independence and disaster resilience.

Thank you for taking the time to read this testimony. Please support HB 2021 and a strong 100% Clean Energy Standard with good jobs and community-based energy projects for all Oregonians.

Sincerely, Rev. Dr. Janet Parker
Beaverton, OR