

April 7th, 2021

Representative Pam Marsh, Chair
House Committee on Energy and Environment
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE, Room D
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Milwaukie Supports HB 2021 -5 Amendment and a Community Supported Renewable Energy Program

Chair Marsh and Members of the Committee:

The City of Milwaukie asks for your support for the -5 amendment for HB 2021. The -5 amendment will be a significant step in achieving our state and local sustainability goals by addressing the carbon intensity of the energy sector.

In 2018, the City of Milwaukie adopted the Milwaukie Community Climate Action plan which established energy and community decarbonization goals. In 2020, Milwaukie City Council unanimously adopted a resolution declaring a climate emergency, accelerating the city's climate goals in acknowledgement of the intensity and speed at which the climate crisis is affecting our region and the world. The City of Milwaukie now aims to achieve net-zero emissions from electricity by 2030, net-zero emissions from building fuels by 2035, and community carbon neutrality by 2045. We are working at the city level to increase programming, incentives, and education and outreach to community members to reduce the City's emissions and address the climate crisis, however, these efforts still leave a significant gap to close to achieve our emission reduction goals.

In order to reduce emissions from building energy, Milwaukie's largest emission sector, we need to address the carbon intensity of the electrical grid as a whole and create a systematic process to decrease carbon intensity by increasing investment and opportunities for local and utility scale carbon-free energy systems. HB 2021 with the -5 amendment provides this path and is essential in ensuring Milwaukie and the State of Oregon's success in decarbonization efforts. In addition, this legislation takes an environmental justice approach in considerations and prioritization for frontline communities which aligns with our city's diversity, equity, and inclusion goals.



A key element of the -5 amendment that the City of Milwaukie supports is the community supported renewable energy program language. As cities across Oregon adopt climate goals, we need to expand our toolkits to create opportunities to make significant changes that reflect the values and needs of our cities. Having the ability to work directly with our local utility to customize a new product that achieves our goals is a significant help in our work. Jurisdictions with specific climate goals like Milwaukie need a new carbon-free electricity product that can be more affordable through economies of scale, reflect the values and needs of the community, and include a streamlined opt-out participation model which could lead to significant carbon and cost savings. HB 2021 through the -5 amendment would allow for the design of such a product while maintaining the good partnership we already have with our local utility, Portland General Electric. PGE has shown willingness and support in collaborating on such a product and other resiliency and grid efforts that would benefit our city, and many other cities would appreciate the same opportunity.

For these reasons, the City of Milwaukie supports the -5 amendment to HB 2021.

We appreciate your consideration of these comments and ask for your support for the -5 amendment to HB 2021 and for a just transition to 100% clean electricity.

Thank you,



Peter Passarelli
Public Works Director



Natalie Rogers
Climate Action and Sustainability Coordinator