



April 8, 2021

Chair Marsh, Vice Chair Helm, Vice Chair Brock Smith, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Mike Powers, I use he/him pronouns. I am the President of SEIU Local 503. Service Employees International Union represents 85,000 workers in Oregon and SW Washington, and has 2 million members nation-wide. Our members include janitors, health care workers, care providers, public workers, and more. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2021 and the labor standards in the -5 amendment.

Climate change, we can see it. The normal Oregon storms of the past are stronger, less predictable, more destructive. As are Oregon's wildfires. This is increasing the cost of local and state government. Our farmers and ranchers experience greater costs as well to manage more serious droughts mixed with more intensive weather.

We can reverse these expensive impacts in ways that create opportunities and improvements. For example, climate change adaptation will create jobs right here in Oregon that cannot be exported, jobs that will boost urban and rural communities alike. To benefit working Oregon families, these jobs must provide training, dignified wages, labor protections, and safety standards. HB 2021 moves us in the right direction.

Along with other labor voices, we agree that the following provisions of this bill will ensure that clean energy jobs provide good wages and training opportunities to working Oregonians:

- Adopting an apprenticeship standard
- Setting goals for hiring and recruiting veterans, women, and people of color
- Setting an area wage standard
- Providing health and retirement benefits found in section 21

Thank you for your work on this important piece of legislation that will benefit our entire state. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Mike Powers
President, SEIU 503