



Oregon Coalition of ChristianVoices

OCCV urges passage of HB 2021 – 100% Clean Energy for All

Testimony for House Committee on Energy and Environment, 4-7-21

Chair Rep Marsh and Vice-Chairs Rep Helm and Rep Smith:

My name is Andy Harris. I am a board member of Oregon Coalition of Christian Voices (OCCV), and we urge passage of HB 2021 as amended. OCCV assesses public policies from our faith perspective, and we advocate for the common good, especially for those people who are marginalized in our society and whose voices often are not heard.

Reduction of fossil fuel use is an imperative for our planet and for all living beings. HB 2021 would require 100% emissions-free electricity by 2040 with interim targets of 90% by 2035 and 80% by 2030. It would further ban new or expanded fossil fuel power plants, including oil and fracked gas power plants.

OCCV particularly supports the strong labor standards for new clean energy projects including fair wage standards, good benefits, and a goal of 15% of work hours to be completed by apprentices as well as Black people, Indigenous people, people of color (BIPOC), women, veterans, and people with disabilities.

The -9 amendments to the bill would invest \$50 million in new community-based renewable energy projects to be awarded to Tribal and local governments to create opportunities for community-owned energy, paired with battery backup and microgrids to increase energy affordability and disaster resilience.

The time for reducing our reliance on fossil fuels and committing to 100% clean energy is now. OCCV believes that HB 2021 will also invest in communities of color and will provide jobs in rural and economically depressed areas of the state.

OCCV urges your support of HB 2021. Thank you.

Andy Harris
Board of Directors
Oregon Coalition of Christian Voices