

Chair Marsh, Vice-Chair Helm, Vice-Chair Brock Smith, and Members of the House Committee on Energy & 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. My name is Lois Yoshishige. I have lived in Eugene Oregon since September 1980. I am currently retired after working 34 years as a clerical worker in the Business Office at the University of Oregon. I am still active in my union, SEIU503, and in Eugene Taiko group.

I urge you to support House Bill 2021 so that Oregon communities are sure to benefit from the transition to clean energy. House Bill 2021 will help us to ensure that the communities in Oregon that are struggling the most from the pandemic and its economic impacts, extreme weather events, and wildfires are the same communities that benefit from clean energy. That is why the Oregon legislature must take action.

Having worked at the University of Oregon with other classified employees, including other BIPOC, I can tell you this bill is the BEGINNING of what is necessary to meet the challenges we face around climate change. Last Summer's wildfires were devastating to our Oregon communities. I know my union sisters and brothers had no choice but to work in the heat and smoke. Some lost their homes and two died. This is unacceptable! We must do everything we can to address this as a community and stop hoping it will go away. I know we will have to continue to deal with wildfires and other climate emergencies caused by our use of fossil fuels, including natural gas, but if we start taking the steps now, we will move out of this paralysis and figure out the next bold steps we need to take after that.

We can build a strong, resilient, and clean energy economy in our communities by ensuring that Oregon's 100% Clean Energy Standard 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 BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and people of color), low-income communities, Tribes, and rural and coastal communities.

We have the opportunity to increase local community ownership of energy, job opportunities and economic development, and the health and safety of communities throughout the state. Globally, the burning of fossil fuels was responsible for 20% of deaths in 2018 and pollution from facilities like gas-fired power plants leads to worse outcomes of COVID-19. By setting clear targets for cleaning up Oregon's electricity and supporting community-based energy projects and good jobs for local communities, we can seize the opportunity of clean energy to help rebuild from today's many crises.

Thank you for your time and for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2021. Please support a strong 100% Clean Energy Standard with good jobs and community-based energy projects for Oregonians.

Sincerely,
Lois Yoshishige
Co-chair SEIU503 climate justice committee
Eugene OR