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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2021, 100% Clean Energy for All. My name is Indi Namkoong, and I am the Coalition Manager at 350PDX. We are a Portland-based organization working to build a diverse grassroots movement to address the causes of climate disruption through justice-based solutions by inspiring, training and mobilizing people to act. Over the last few months, we’ve had the honor of working in coalition with organizations from all over the state representing those most impacted by the climate crisis to set a strong mandate for the 100% clean energy future all Oregonians deserve and for a just transition that leaves no one in our state behind.

HB 2021 offers us the chance to ensure that our transition to a clean energy system doesn’t compound the harms done by both our current energy system and the climate crisis to Black, Indigenous, people of color, as well as rural, coastal, and low-income folks around the state. Transformational change can’t happen when we reproduce the structures of harm and disadvantage that existed before; communities that have been marginalized by pollution, high costs, or the lack of job opportunities in energy need to be the first to lead on and benefit from our shift to a clean system and energy economy.

HB 2021, with the inclusion of the -5 and -9 amendments, would set our state on an ambitious and achievable path to 100% clean energy by 2040 by using existing regulatory structures, recognizing that we do not need to re-invent the wheel. By ending the siting of new fossil fuel power plants in Oregon, implementing strong labor standards, and setting communities and municipalities up to develop their own local projects and faster timelines to 100% clean energy, these amendments maximize community benefits while minimizing burdens to already over-impacted environmental justice communities. Finally, these amendments include strong sideboards to minimize rate and reliability impacts on Oregonians, ensuring that our clean energy transition doesn’t create harm to vulnerable households and communities along the way. We urge you to support HB 2021, 100% Clean Energy for All, with the -5 and -9 amendments, in pursuit of a necessary and just clean energy transition for Oregon.

Thank you for your time and your consideration, and for all of your hard work this session towards a just recovery and future for our state.

Sincerely,

Indigo Namkoong
Coalition Manager
350PDX