



May 11, 2021

Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: 100% Clean Energy (HB 2021) – Support

Dear Members of the Oregon State Legislature,

As businesses, higher education institutions, investors, and employers in Oregon, we support policies that will help the state address climate change, protect public health, and ensure our state’s economy remains competitive. We write to express our strong support for House Bill 2021, which would establish a goal to eliminate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the state’s electricity supply by 2040 with interim targets to ensure the state is on the right path. We applaud the diverse group of stakeholders, from environmental justice, utility, labor, business, rural, municipal and other perspectives, and the numerous legislators who have worked to draft and amend this consensus legislation.

By further accelerating and expanding Oregon’s clean energy targets, this bill will help position the state to achieve its GHG emission reduction goals. Cleaning up the grid is also crucial to maximizing the benefits of electrifying our transportation system and other major energy uses, while driving innovation throughout our economy. The bill also encourages the development of local clean energy projects that would create cost savings and jobs throughout Oregon.

A growing number of companies, both large and small, have set goals to reduce GHG emissions and invest in clean energy.¹ Colleges and universities are also making bold commitments to address climate change and resilience, integrating these into their curriculum, research, and campus operations. Procuring clean energy helps large energy users save money, hedge against volatile fuel prices, and stay competitive.

Clean energy not only makes economic sense, but it is also the expectation of our customers, employees, investors, and students. States with robust clean energy standards create policy certainty, attracting large energy users seeking to make long-term investments consistent with meeting our sustainability and financial goals.

¹ Ceres. “Power Forward 3.0: How the largest U.S. companies are capturing business value while addressing climate change” April 15, 2017. <https://www.ceres.org/resources/reports/power-forward-3>.

Tackling climate change is an economic opportunity for Oregon. Accelerating and expanding Oregon’s clean energy goals is a key next step to ensure the state’s vibrant and robust clean energy economy continues to grow. A recent report found that more than 56,000 Oregonians were employed in clean energy in 2019.² Increasing the requirements of Oregon’s clean energy targets will help provide the necessary market signals for businesses to make additional clean energy investments in Oregon and help the state’s economy swiftly recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

House Bill 2021 includes important provisions to protect the health of residents in communities of color and low-wealth communities, which are disproportionately impacted by pollution and most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Due to a lack of policy protections and stakeholder engagement, communities of color are disproportionately exposed to harmful air pollution from the electric power sector. Smart provisions aim not only to reduce pollution in these communities, but also bring more voices to the table to intentionally invest in environmental justice communities and help create jobs at all levels and throughout the state.

An increasing number of states recognize that reaching 100% clean energy, while ambitious, is achievable. Setting this new standard would help the state continue to capture additional economic benefits and send a clear signal that Oregon aims to be a player in the growing clean energy economy.

Sincerely,

Agriculture Capital
AllMed Healthcare Management, Inc.
Brink Communications
DecisionWare Group, LLC
Eaton Synergies, LLC
EC Company
Hope Well Wine
Indow Windows
Innergex
Lewis and Clark College
Metropolitan Group
Neil Kelly Company
Oregon Business for Climate
Progressive Investment Management
SeSequential
Stillwater Energy
Trillium Asset Management
Vernier Software & Technology
Workday

This letter is co-organized by Ceres and Oregon Business for Climate. For more information or to contact the signatories, please contact Emily Duff (duff@ceres.org) or Tim Miller (tim@orbizclimate.org).

² Environmental Entrepreneurs (E2) in partnership with Oregon Business for Climate. “Clean Jobs Oregon 2020” February 18, 2021. <https://e2.org/reports/clean-jobs-oregon-2020/>