

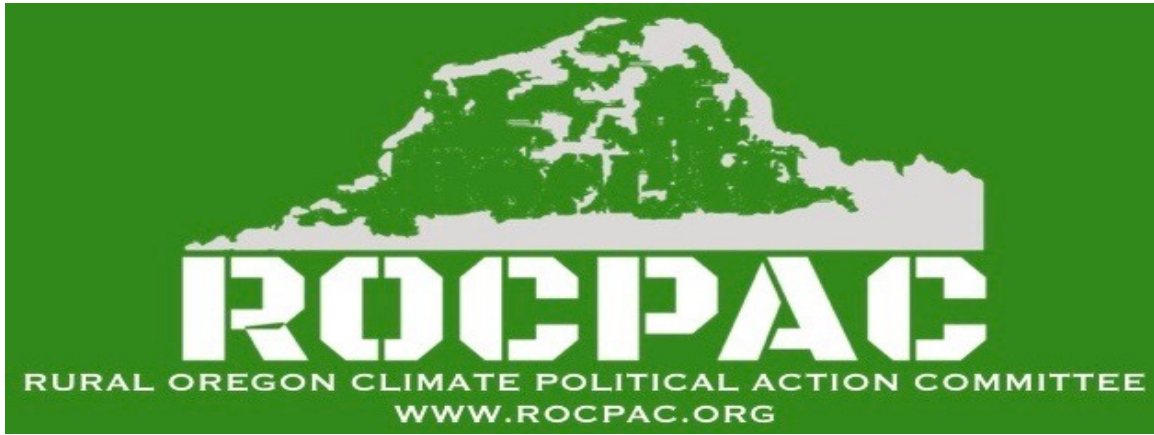
Testimony on HB2021

Chair Nathanson, Vice Chairs Pham and Reschke and members of the Oregon House Committee on Revenue:

My name is Dr. Hogan Sherrow and I am writing on behalf of rural Oregonians concerned about the impacts of climate change and determined to see meaningful climate legislation passed in Oregon. A critical step forward in our statewide efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions is the transition to 100% clean electricity. Currently “natural” gas accounts for approximately 1/3 of all electricity production in Oregon. HB2021 will allow us to move beyond 20th century power sources such as fossil fuels and provide the infrastructure, support and impetus needed to move our power generation into the 21st century. The bill establishes that no new “natural” gas plants can be sited in Oregon and the Energy Facility Siting Council will not issue a site certificate for new fossil fuel plants or the substantive expansion of existing fossil fuel plants. While HB 2021 is a strong bill, that will move us away from the greenhouse gas emissions that are causing the climate crisis, it will do so in the right way.

HB2021 recognizes the importance of explicitly considering environmental justice and income disparity in a transition to clean electricity. It guarantees that stakeholders representing environmental justice and low-income ratepayers will have a seat at the table and the opportunity to engage in the development and equitable implementation of clean energy plans that will improve equity and resilience, while reducing the energy burden of the electrical system. This bill also directs the Oregon Department of Energy to study ways to encourage the development of small scale and community-based renewable energy projects for economic development and resiliency. Part of the resiliency for local communities, supported by this bill is the allowance for local jurisdictions to partner with electric utilities to develop green tariffs of 100% clean energy product for their residents faster than statewide 100% clean energy target.

HB2021 is more than just a just transition to a clean electricity future for Oregon, it is a jobs bill. The transition to 100% clean electricity by 2040 will create 1000’s of family wage jobs across the state in multiple sectors. As part of the just transition, HB2021 requires that responsible contractor and labor standards are applied to moderate and large-scale jobs, ensuring fair wages and good health and retirement benefits. HB2021 also recommends the use of apprenticeship programs for at least 15% of work hours and aims for at least 15% of work hours to be performed by BIPOC, women, veterans, or people with disabilities.



Critically, HB2021 will invest in local communities through the establishment of a \$50Million “Community Renewables Investment Fund.” The Oregon Department of Energy will use that fund to distribute grants for community renewable energy projects that are 20 MW or less in size around Oregon (outside Portland) with advisory committee oversight/ input.

HB2021 will be especially impactful and beneficial for rural communities throughout Oregon where environmental injustices have been commonplace for over a century. For all of these reasons I encourage all of the members of your committee to sign on in support of HB2021 and show the leadership and vision we need as we stare down the climate crisis. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Hogan M. Sherrow, Ph.D.', is written over a white background.

Hogan M. Sherrow, Ph.D.
Director
Rural Oregon Climate Political Action Committee
(ROCPAC)