



Coalition of
Communities of
Color

May 14th, 2021

To: House Committee on Revenue

RE: Oregon House Bill 2021, 100% Clean Energy for All

Dear Chair Nathanson, Vice Chair Pham, Vice Chair Werner Reschke and Members of the Committee,

My name is Nikita Daryanani and I am the Climate and Energy Policy Manager at the Coalition of Communities of Color, an alliance of culturally-specific community based organizations. I write in support of House Bill 2021-A generally and the -A46 amendments specifically. These technical fixes will achieve the base bill goal of 100% clean energy for all Oregonians with added focus on community-based renewable energy and resiliency.

Through HB2021-A, we have the opportunity to ensure that communities who have historically faced and continue to face the worst impacts of climate, economic, and public health crises can share in the benefits of a clean energy future. This means that communities made up of Black, Indigenous, and people of color, such as those that CCC's member organizations work with, and coastal, rural, and low-income communities have access to jobs, decreased pollution, ownership over resources and energy projects, and are not further harmed by fossil fuel power plants. This bill lays out a clear, holistic vision for an environmentally and economically just energy system.

The labor standards included in HB2021-A create hiring targets for women, BIPOC, and marginalized groups to receive well-paying, local jobs in the clean energy industry. The bill also creates opportunities and provides funding for community-based clean energy projects which, when paired with battery storage or microgrids, can build community resilience during disasters and also community wealth in communities throughout Oregon. The -A46 amendment help support these investments with more intentional focus on avoided health, economic, and environmental costs of community-based renewable energy projects acknowledged through the bill's planning process.

HB2021 is also clear about maximizing benefits while minimizing burdens to environmental justice communities, which is incredibly important to moving towards a just transition. Prohibiting the siting of new natural gas plants is also a critical step towards achieving this. We also recognize the harm that energy projects have done to tribal communities historically and support a forthcoming amendment that would ensure better consultation and protection of cultural and historical resources in clean energy development.

The pandemic, coupled with recent wildfires and ice storms throughout the state of Oregon have highlighted the urgent need for our energy system to be affordable, reliable, clean, and equitable. HB2021-A addresses these needs and ensures that the inevitable shift to 100% clean electricity is done in a way that maximizes its host of benefits to all Oregonians. So there are so many reasons to be excited about this bill. We are proud to be part of the coalition of organizations working to set this critical standard for the state of Oregon and strongly urge your "yes" vote on HB2021-A and the -A46 amendments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nikita Daryanani'.

Nikita Daryanani (she/her), Climate and Energy Policy Manager
Coalition of Communities of Color