

Dear Chair Edwards and members of the committee,

It's my honor to submit testimony today in support of HB 3470, the Climate Stability and Justice Act. As an instructor in the Renewable Energy Technician Program at Clackamas Community College, I can attest to the difference renewable energy programs make in the lives of our students, and the local companies that hire them. Our program offers certifications for those wanting to work on solar, wind or geothermal energy. We offer a one-year certificate and a two-year degree. Our program is only four years old, but I have already seen what a difference we're able to make in the lives of our students.

For me, this work is personal; I started researching renewable energy in high school and eventually became connected with the American Hydrogen Association, working with them to first convert small appliances, then cars. I've also worked as a wind turbine technician, converting generators to produce more power. I've worked as a fuel cell technician, a drafter for a fuel cell company and now an educator. I wrote a curriculum for the University of Montana on alternative fuels, and take pride in that fact that I am continuing this work here in Oregon. I've been in the renewable energy field for 18 years.

Renewable energy technology is applicable to many jobs, meaning there are many job opportunities for our recent graduates. We've had 150 students graduate so far; 85% of our graduates have jobs in their desired fields (many of them offered jobs even before they have completed our program), while the remainder have chosen to go onto engineering school to continue their studies.

Our student makeup is as diverse as our program. In our first year, we worked with many former employees of the Blue Heron paper mill who lost their jobs when the mill shut down, training 60 students so they could pursue higher-paying jobs in related but different fields. We also worked with displaced construction workers, who were out of work at the time due to the recession and crash of the local housing market.

As the economy picked up we began to enroll students who were already employed, but seeking additional certifications so they could add to their portfolio. We also work with recent high school graduates, exiting military and others wanting to pursue a second career. Whatever the circumstance of how people get to us, our program is full of men and women looking to us because they want to do something different and meaningful with their lives.

Renewable energy skills needed are valued and wanted; employers are willing to pay good money for it. These are good, family-wage paying jobs. The renewable energy industry is growing as a field and maturing, and Oregon has the chance to be a leader in developing this sector and employing our communities in its diverse fields. HB 3470 creates the framework for transitioning Oregon off of polluting energy and increasing investment in clean energy – a transition that's good for our

economy, job creation and our communities. At Clackamas Community College we're doing our part to train the workers of this new economy, and with increased incentives and investment we could be train more people for the family-wage paying jobs offered in renewable energy. I hope, on behalf of my students, that you will pass HB 3470 and give Oregon the chance to realize its clean energy potential.

Sincerely,

Abe Fouhy

Renewable Energy, Industrial Maintenance and Alternative Fuel Instructor

Clackamas Community College

19600 Molalla Ave, Oregon City, OR 97045

P: 503:594.3659

E: [abef@clackamas.edu](mailto:abef@clackamas.edu)