

Dear Co-Chair Power, Co-Chair Dembrow, and members of the committee,

Below is the testimony I delivered in person in Medford on Feb 23, 2019 among the panel of elected officials.

My name is Eleanor Ponomareff. I am a newly-elected City Councilor for Talent, speaking on my own behalf, and that of many of my constituents, in support of strengthening HB2020.

A few years ago, residents in my city spent hundreds of hours putting together a multi-faceted Clean Energy Action Plan, laying out an approach to conserve energy and transition to 100 percent clean, renewable energy within the next two decades. This year, we are in the process of codifying those objectives as part of our Comprehensive Plan.

We are a city of less than 7,000 people. But we are not asking ourselves: *Are we big enough to make a difference?*

Rather, we are asking ourselves: *What are our objectives? What concrete steps must we take to achieve them? And crucially: What tools are out there that will help us?*

This bill will help provide the critical tools my city needs.

For example:

- By giving communities like ours the ability to improve energy efficiency in our homes;
- By increasing access to community solar projects, and making solar available to low-income households;
- And by bringing good-paying jobs to communities in rural Oregon.

I know the people in my city have the foresight and the will to make the transition to a smart, green economy. Cities like mine are looking to you, to give us the tools that we need.

I urge you to support the strongest possible version of this bill, and to ensure that the benefits of this policy are directed to people most impacted by climate change - low income and rural communities like mine, as well as communities of color, and tribal communities.

Thank you for your hard work.

Sincerely,
-eleanor

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