

Hello Members of the House Committee on Energy & Environment

My name is Diane Ware. I've lived in the Rogue Valley for 50 years, teaching rural children for 30 years. In 2010 My husband and I moved out of our home in the forest above Sams Valley to escape our worries of losing everything to forest fires. We built an energy efficient, fire-resistant home in Talent later adding 14 rooftop solar panels. This home was sold in 2016 when we moved to a Medford retirement community. The beloved Talent home burned to the ground in the extraordinary wind-driven Almeda Fire with thousands of others.

I wholeheartedly support HB 2021 100% Clean Energy for All. This bill creates energy policy that helps us recover and build back better. It moves us faster toward our clean energy goals. Affordable, clean energy, lower electricity bills, cleaner air and increased disaster resilience are important for all Oregonians.

Recently we were able to invest in a community solar project in Talent. I want the hope and benefits we experienced buying less expensive solar panels, which will pay for themselves over time, to be widely available and we can have the opportunity to be more energy independent. Not only does this bill put money in the pockets of everyone through energy affordability, it helps rebuild Talent as a more disaster resilient city.

With this bill each region in Oregon will be able to find the best way to generate clean energy. Bill 2021 should ensure strong labor standards, such as paying a prevailing wage and providing apprenticeship opportunities, and that our shift to clean energy is just and helps all Oregonians.

Thank you,
Diane Ware