

Chair Marsh and Members of the House Committee on Energy and Environment,

Thank you for considering HB 2021 to curb greenhouse gas emissions and create economic opportunities for Oregonians. My name is Danell Norby and I'm a resident of East Portland. Although I've known for a long time that climate change is a problem, the recent West Coast wildfires and extreme weather events across the country have made this issue very real for me, and I feel called to action. Recently, I read that our collective path forward in a climate-changed world includes three components: mitigation, adaptation, and suffering. How much suffering we will endure depends directly on our willingness to engage in the first two components. Passing HB 2021 would allow Oregon to 1) mitigate climate impacts by eliminating GHG emissions from electricity production by 2040 and 2) adapt to the reality of increased natural disasters by supporting projects that make our grid more resilient and reliable.

Embracing clean energy will also create numerous employment and contracting opportunities, allowing Oregonians to share in the significant gains to be made in this emerging industry. It's critical that any version of HB 2021 includes standards to ensure that jobs go to local residents, pay fair wages, provide benefits, and are targeted to BIPOC and other disadvantaged communities.

I respectfully urge the Committee and future implementers of HB 2021, if passed, to prioritize renewable sources such as solar and wind over other zero-emissions sources like nuclear. Transitioning to 100% clean energy, with a focus on renewables, is possible with current technology. We absolutely can address climate change and reduce the amount of suffering that we and our children will face—but it relies on the political will of leaders like you. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of this important bill.

Sincerely,

Danell Norby