

Chair Marsh, Vice-Chair Helm, Vice-Chair Brock Smith, and Members of the House Committee on Energy & Environment,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2021, 100% Clean Energy for All.

I identify as Chicana, born in Salem, raised in Portland, Oregon. My mother's side has lived in Oregon for at least 4 generations. I work for a small non profit who serves the neighborhoods of inner N/NE Portland, in which is one of the most gentrified geographies of Portland and where I have lived for over 40 years. While I have no kids of my own, I am auntie/ godmother of several and am active in my community.

I urge you to support House Bill 2021 so that Oregon communities are sure to benefit from the transition to clean energy. House Bill 2021 can help us to ensure that the communities in Oregon that are struggling the most from the pandemic and its economic impacts, extreme weather events, and wildfires are the same communities that benefit from clean energy. That is why the Oregon legislature must take action.

The challenge of paying for electricity and heat is always real. **To this day, at my mother's home, her heater does not work. She depends on firewood and even that is a challenge and what is sad is that the heat doesn't make it to her bedroom- which stays cold.** She is a homeowner who works in retail, and just the taxes alone are a burden, and was worsened by COVID.

The luxuries of being able to afford heat in the winter, or have an air conditioner in the summer, are things we have rarely had access to. When the wild fires happened, we were impacted as neither of us have an air conditioner and all we could do was close our windows. It was extremely stuffy, hot and hard to breathe. I have asthma, and struggle with allergies, and the fires caused me to break out in hives. I tried to purchase an air filter but couldn't find one that I could afford as they were in high demand at the stores. I finally found one I could borrow, and then proceeded to run it for the next couple weeks, 24 hours a day, in an attempt to find comfort. When my hives are out of control, I have to take steroids, which I avoid as they cause bone thinning over time. **My skin, my breathing, my comfort and my electricity bill were all impacted.** My family, our community and our loved ones across the state all suffered- especially those who are the poorest, as they have the least access to the resources I mentioned above.

Being that these utilities are the deal breakers of how the survival experience is in Oregon during these natural disasters- I am very in support of a clean energy bill that can assist in the prevention of natural disasters and addresses the impacts, such as rising costs of these utilities to low income communities.

I am in strong support in there being a pathway for future generations to be apart of the energy sector, to there being localized energy projects that invest back into our communities where the profit is generated off of. This action needs to happen statewide, so Tribal communities whose

natural resources are often exploited the hardest are on a strong receiving end of the benefits. This bill needs to ensure that those who reside in rural areas are able to benefit, in addition to the urban areas where many communities of color reside. It needs to happen for all the communities in Oregon who were hit hard by the wildfires, but were not able to access assistance, those who are facing hardships due to climate change, those who cannot afford to flee to another state and start over again.

At the end of it all- people of color, Tribal communities, poor people, elders on fixed incomes, single parents, those who are disabled, immigrant laborers and our future generations- they feel the impacts of poor natural resource management the most.

Let's ensure all in our state can afford, can benefit and be a part of a 100% Clean Energy workforce that prioritizes communities on the frontlines of climate change.

We can build a strong, resilient, and clean energy economy in our communities by ensuring that Oregon's 100% Clean Energy Standard includes:

- Strong labor standards that ensure clean energy projects hire local, pay the prevailing wage and provide good benefits, and reserve opportunities for apprenticeships.
- Good incentives for community-based energy projects such as solar plus storage that increase energy independence, affordability, and disaster-resilience.
- Provisions that prioritize benefits and avoid harms to environmental justice communities including BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and people of color), low-income communities, Tribes, and rural and coastal communities.

We have the opportunity to increase local community ownership of energy, job opportunities and economic development, and the health and safety of communities throughout the state. Globally, the burning of fossil fuels was responsible for 20% of deaths in 2018 and pollution from facilities like gas-fired power plants leads to worse outcomes of COVID-19. By setting clear targets for cleaning up Oregon's electricity and supporting community-based energy projects and good jobs for local communities, we can seize the opportunity of clean energy to help rebuild from today's many crises.

Thank you for your time and for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2021. Please support a strong 100% Clean Energy Standard with good jobs and community-based energy projects for Oregonians.

Sincerely,
Jessica Rojas
NE Portland, Oregon