

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

I am a small farmer in rural Selma, Oregon and was the Democratic nominee for Oregon Senate District 2 in last November's election. I take this issue very seriously on behalf of my children and future grandchildren. We can solve the climate crisis and this bill, #2021, is a crucial step. This can be done in a way that builds thousands of living wage jobs. As we work toward re-building Oregon we must do so in a way that addresses climate and increasingly hotter ground temperatures that lead to more devastating fires.

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.

I recently watched a film, "Other Side of the Hill" which is about the emerging transition in predominantly republican eastern Oregon counties, which are embracing a wind and solar future, creating jobs and vitality in their communities. I urge every legislator to watch that film. This issue does not have to be a democratic or republican issue. We can do this together and help our rural communities that are struggling with poverty, lack of jobs, lack of housing and loss of hope.

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

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- 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.