

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

My name is Mason Drummond and I am a high school junior and a climate justice organizer in the Portland area. I'm testifying today in SUPPORT of HB 2021.

We have no choice but to act. I'm seventeen, planning for the rest of my life, and I'm terrified that a livable future on this planet might not exist. Many communities are feeling the heavy burden of the current climate crisis; it's affecting health, housing, and really every facet of everyday life. We only have so much time to preserve our earth and the communities living here. Clean energy and clean jobs are how we do that work.

Climate work is an act of care; when done right in Oregon we support frontline communities, workers, and work towards a sustainable economy — HB 2021 does exactly that. It is beyond critical that we provide opportunities for Oregonians who are most impacted by the climate crisis and the pandemic. We need to provide community-based projects, protect our workers in clean energy jobs, and prioritize BIPOC communities.

People are dying because of our climate. Years of neglect and unsustainable energy like fossil fuels have slowly been damaging our communities and our ecosystems, making living on this planet exponentially harder. We have to transition to clean energy, we have to do it justly, and we have to do it right now.

I urge you to strongly support HB 2021.

Thank you,  
Mason Drummond