

22 March 2021

Re: Urging your support for HB 2021 -- 100% Clean Energy for All

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'm Craig Markham, a resident of Dundee in Yamhill County. I am now retired from my career as an ecologist and environmental scientist. However, I have not retired from caring for our planet and its inhabitants.

We are now in the advanced stages of an epic environmental crisis that has been accelerating measurably for decades. It's not like we had no warning. Our feeble responses as a people, as a state and as a nation have failed to meet the enormity of the crisis. Fossil fuels powered the Industrial Revolution, but their continued use is now damaging our planet and threatening our very existence. We must rapidly curtail their use and stop spewing greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. The best and easiest method of carbon sequestration is to keep it in the ground and to accelerate development and use clean energy sources in their place.

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. **We Oregonians can do this, and the Oregon legislature must take action. The longer we dither, the harder it will become and the more limited our options will be.**

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 locally, 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.
- Prioritize installations that responsibly minimize adverse impacts.

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. 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,
Craig Markham
Dundee, OR 97115