

March 22, 2021



## Oregon Progressive Party Independent Party of Oregon

### Position on Bills at 2021 Session of Oregon Legislature:

Dear Committee: **HB 2201: Oppose the -1 Amendment**

The Oregon Progressive Party and Independent Party of Oregon oppose the adoption of the -1 amendment to this bill.

The bill itself would authorize the Oregon Public Utility Commission to conduct a study of laws related to clean energy. The -1 Amendment deletes its text and replaces it with 37 pages of new text on the subject of generating electricity with zero greenhouse gas emissions.

The -1 Amendment defines "Nonemitting electricity" as "electricity that is generated or stored in a manner that does not emit greenhouse gas into the atmosphere." That definition is nonsensical, because of its use of the disjunctive connector "or." Say a coal-fired power plant produced electricity that is stored in a pumped storage reservoir. That would qualify as "nonemitting electricity," because it is "stored in a manner that does not emit greenhouse gases into the atmosphere." The HB 2021-1 language does not require that the electricity be both generated and stored in such manner, only that it is either generated or stored in such manner. The correct usage would be "electricity that is neither generated nor stored in a manner that emits greenhouse gases into the atmosphere."

The definition also fails to account for the greenhouse gases that are emitted in order to allow the generation to occur. For example, assume technology advances to enable 100% capture of greenhouse gas emissions from a gas-fired power plant. HB 2021-1 would consider that plan to be generating "nonemitting electricity," when in fact extracting the gas from the ground and transporting it to the power plant would cause huge emissions of methane and other potent greenhouse gases.

The same is true of nuclear power plants. The LWR nuclear fuel cycle requires the large amounts of electricity be used for uranium enrichment (not to mention uranium mining, milling, and other stages of nuclear fuel production). HB 2021-1 would consider nuclear power plants to be producing "nonemitting electricity," even though production of such electricity causes large emissions of greenhouse gases from the

fossil fuel-fired power plants that provide power to the uranium enrichment facilities. Over 90% of the uranium enrichment services for U.S. nuclear power plants is provided by plants in other countries (Canada, Kazakhstan, Australia, Russia, Uzbekistan and others). HB 2021-1 fails to account for the greenhouse gases emitted by those facilities.

We note that the alternative greenhouse gas reduction bill, HB 3180, does not use a definition that places gas-fired power plants and/or nuclear power plants into the preferred category.

### **Oregon Progressive Party**

**Daniel Meek**

authorized legal representative

[dan@meek.net](mailto:dan@meek.net)

503-293-9021

