

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

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of House Bill 2021, 100% Clean Energy for All. I live in Portland and am a retired social worker. I spent most of my career working with people who were low income and often without stable housing. I know that many people had to make the choice of providing food for their families, paying their rent, or paying their utilities. 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 and don't have to choose which bills to pay.

It is important that 100 % Clean Energy for All have strong labor standards that ensure clean energy projects hire local, pay the prevailing wage, and provide good benefits, and reserve opportunities for apprenticeships and that it prioritizes 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.

In Oregon we have the chance to increase local community ownership of energy, job opportunities and economic development, and the health and safety of communities throughout the state. Thank you for your time and for the opportunity to comment 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,

Catherine Spofford  
Portland, Oregon