

Dear Chair Marsh, Vice-chair Helm, Vice Chair Brock Smith, and committee members on Energy and Environment.

I am writing in appreciation for all of your work during these times of great transitions, and to encourage you to support HB2121. I would be at the hearing in person but am visiting my 2 week old grand-daughter and her parents. We drove out along the Santiam Hwy, Hwy 22, and saw for the first time the devastation by last years' fires, then further along through the eastern fires along Hwy 20.

I left my medical career early, in 2007, to understand and help advocate for climate smart and just policy, policies that offer economic opportunity and health through sustainable and work that helps us restore our ailing environment, and secure a livable future for our children, future generations, and the millions of threatened species on our planet. HB2121, an essential part of the mosaic of climate policies. Along with smart forest policy, these will both curtail emissions and sequester carbon, making communities and forests as wildfire resilient as possible in these critical years, and providing essential jobs.

Oregon needs to do our part in creating 100% clean energy standards with strong labor standards and training that ensure clean energy projects hire local, pay the prevailing wage and provide good benefits, and reserve opportunities for apprenticeships. We need good incentives for community-based energy projects such as solar plus storage that increase energy independence, affordability, and disaster-resilience, and we need to use this economic opportunity to begin to right past discrimination that led to our current disparities, and include provisions that prioritize benefits and avoid harms to low income communities including BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and people of color), Tribes, and rural and coastal communities.

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, climate justice, and community-based energy projects for Oregonians.

Sincerely,

Harriet Cooke MD, MPH, Portland Oregon, member of Havurah Shalom Climate Action team, P'nai Or Tikkun Olam committee, 350PDX, MCAT, and Bark.