

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

Thanks very much for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2021, 100% Clean Energy for All. I am a retired Navy officer and college instructor, living in rural Lane County, where I care for five acres of mostly forest and grow my own food using organic methods. I am a leader in my church and community, and I organize full time for climate justice and a ecologically safe future.

As you know, the time to prepare for the future is NOW. The climate emergency is here, and climate and economic resilience are more important than ever. But the clean energy revolution is also here, and I want Oregon businesses and citizens to be at the head of the line to get the benefits of the new renewable energy economy that will ensure healthy and safe communities.

What is climate resilience? Transitioning to 100% clean energy and phasing out fossil fuels as fast as we can so we can have the clean air, water and soil we depend upon for life & health.

Economic resilience means putting the needs of those first and worst impacted, not only front line communities where the pollution is worst, but also and especially the energy workers who will need training and living wage jobs with good benefits in the new renewable economy. There are many more jobs in clean energy.

But we must be careful to make common sense plans here in Oregon. For example, trees are our greatest asset for carbon sequestration. The smartest thing we can do is to preserve old and big trees. The worst thing we can do is log them for biomass. Some describe biomass as a "renewable resource" but it's not the best use of that precious resource: it takes too much fuel, produces too much air pollution, and creates an incentive to cut trees.

Another example is the promise of renewable natural gas from confined animal feeding operations and landfills. There should be strict limits on this so-called renewable natural gas and we should not incentivize it. We want less. Lots less. It's methane. We should reduce both in order to avoid production of this potent climate heating gas in the first instance.

This bill is so important for Oregon's energy transformation. It provides strong labor standards, good incentives for local projects, and benefits for impacted and underrepresented communities. A bill like this will help us rebuild the communities that have been hit hard by Covid-19, wildfires, weather-weirding and economic hard times.

The record is clear: fossil energy is on its way out, renewable energy is the opportunity of our life time, but we need the Oregon legislature to take action.

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,
Patricia Hine, Eugene, Oregon, 350 Eugene and First United Methodist Church