

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. My name is Bethany Renata Loberg and I live in Salem, Oregon. I am currently the co-chair of the Oregon Fellowship of Reconciliation, which utilizes the transformative power of nonviolence to work for a world in which the dignity and needs of all beings and the planet are honored and met. I am also an active member of Salem Mennonite Church and the Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice.

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. That is why the Oregon legislature must take action.

I will not forget the sky turning orange and the air turning unbreathable for eleven days this fall, nor the heavy ice, falling trees, and power outages we experienced just weeks ago. Challenging as these events were for me, I know immigrant Oregonians were hit especially hard, many losing everything in the fires, and some spending over a week without electricity recently. With climate change increasing, further extreme weather incidents are increasingly likely. Transitioning to clean energy and particularly to community based projects will help our communities be more resilient in the face of these challenges. I believe it's also critical that communities most impacted by both systemic oppression and by the pandemic, extreme weather, and wildfires be centered and benefit from this transition and these projects both through access to jobs and to clean energy.

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 local, 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.

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. Globally, the burning of fossil fuels was responsible for 20% of deaths in 2018 and pollution from facilities like gas-fired power plants leads to worse outcomes of COVID-19. 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,

Bethany Renata Loberg; Salem, OR; Co-Chair Oregon Fellowship of Reconciliation