

March 22, 2021

MMC

Metropolitan Mayors' Consortium

Mayor Lacey Beaty

City of Beaverton

Mayor Brian Hodson

City of Canby

Mayor Jeffrey Dalin

City of Cornelius

Mayor Gery Schirado

City of Durham

Mayor Brian Cooper

City of Fairview

Mayor Peter Truax

City of Forest Grove

Mayor Travis Stovall

City of Gresham

Mayor Tom Ellis

City of Happy Valley

Mayor Steve Callaway

City of Hillsboro

Mayor Ken Gibson

City of King City

Mayor Joe Buck

City of Lake Oswego

Mayor Mark Hardie

City of Maywood Park

Mayor Mark Gamba

City of Milwaukie

Mayor Teri Lenahan

City of North Plains

Mayor Ted Wheeler

City of Portland

Mayor Walt Williams

City of Rivergrove

Mayor Keith Mays

City of Sherwood

Mayor Jason Snider

City of Tigard

Mayor Randy Lauer

City of Troutdale

Mayor Frank Bubenik

City of Tualatin

Mayor Anne McEnery-Ogle

City of Vancouver (ex officio)

Mayor Jules Walters

City of West Linn

Mayor Julie Fitzgerald

City of Wilsonville

Mayor Scott Harden

City of Wood Village

Representative Pam Marsh, Chair
Representative Ken Helm, Vice-Chair
Representative David Brock Smith, Vice-Chair
House Energy and Environment Committee

Re: Support for HB 2021

Dear Chair Marsh, Vice-Chair Helm, Vice-Chair Brock Smith, and Members of the Committee,

The Metropolitan Mayors' Consortium (MMC) represents the mayors of twenty-four cities in the Portland Metro Area, collectively home to over 1.7 million Oregonians. The MMC writes to express its support for HB 2021, which seeks to transition Oregon's electricity sector to 100% clean energy no later than 2040.

The MMC supports policies that reduce carbon emissions and air pollution and move Oregon towards meeting its climate goals. Several MMC cities are already working to develop 100% clean energy programs in our local communities, but we recognize that our entire state needs to decarbonize its electrical grid if we are to significantly reduce Oregon's greenhouse gas emissions. The mayors of the MMC appreciate HB 2021-1's binding emissions reduction targets of 80% clean by 2030, 90% clean by 2035, and 100% clean by 2040. We also applaud the bill's prohibition on the construction of new fossil fuel power plants in the state of Oregon.

The MMC believes in the importance of environmental justice, and that clean energy and environmental policy should be designed in ways that protects our state's most vulnerable communities. It is vital that our state's 100% clean program does not increase electricity prices for low-income Oregonians. For this reason, the mayors feel strongly that the version of HB 2021 that passes should either include protections for low-income ratepayers, or that HB 2021 is passed in conjunction with HB 2475, which authorizes the Public Utility Commission to consider differential energy burden and other inequities of affordability when setting rates.

The MMC would also like to see a 100% clean policy that delivers the economic development benefits brought renewable energy projects to Oregon communities. Renewable energy development brings family wage jobs and property tax revenue to the communities where projects are built, and we want Oregonians to enjoy these benefits as a result of HB 2021.

As we all work to address the inequities in our state and recover from both the COVID-19 pandemic and devastating wildfire season, the MMC supports policy that will deliver cleaner air for our communities, mitigate the impacts of a changing climate, and support local economic development. HB 2021 endeavors to do just that.

Thank you for your commitment to a clean energy future and your consideration of our testimony.

Sincerely,

The Metropolitan Mayors' Consortium