

Roger A. Sabbadini, Ph.D.

Date: March 23, 2021

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

RE: House Bill 2021 100% Clean Energy for All

Dear Committee:

I am a resident of Bend's HD53 and S27 with family in Bend's HD54.

I urge you to support the Clean Energy for All Bill HB 2021 that is up for consideration in this legislative session. I have read the draft bill and find it compelling and worthy of passage in the current session. Please don't let identity politics prevent its adoption.

I have been struggling to understand why the issue of climate change (CC) has become part of our identity politics. I reject the unfounded opinion that CC skeptics are uneducated or uninformed about global warming and other impacts we humans have been making on our planet since the dawn of the industrial revolution. Most CC skeptics know about the vast amounts of evidence demonstrating our impact on climate air and water pollution, greenhouse warming and resultant sea level rise. Anglers like me know it when we see our fisheries in rapid decline. Fire fighters understand it when they are faced with longer fire seasons and more frequent and intense firestorms.

Climate change affects things we ALL hold dear such as the welfare of the family, a robust economy on which we all depend, the food we eat, the air we all breathe, our national security and the country we all love and the political stability of the world. We have failed to connect the dots between those concerns and CC. Additionally, nefarious political operatives work to disconnect the dots in advancing a political agenda that preserves their power base. Thus, CC should not be defined as a liberal, democratic, progressive issue. It is a human issue and an issue that affects all life on our precious planet.

I believe that investing in clean energy will create jobs in Central Oregon to the benefit of our local economy. Jobs will be created locally rather than supporting outside fossil fuel companies. Lower income Oregonians will benefit from these jobs. Many economists argue that economically-disadvantaged folks will suffer disproportionately if climate change is not addressed. Moreover, HB2021 will implement strong labor standards that ensure clean energy projects hire local, pay the prevailing wage and provide good benefits, and reserve opportunities for apprenticeships. 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.

Regardless of political affiliation, all of us want our children to be safe and to inherit a habitable planet and enjoy a strong economy. All of us love our nation and its public lands. Consequently, all of us should embrace clean energy solutions to global warming.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Sabbadini', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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