

Comments on HB2021

March 22, 2021

Chair Marsh, Vice-Chairs Helm and Brock Smith, Committee Members:

I am Dr. Theodora Tsongas. I am an Environmental Health Scientist/Epidemiologist and a member of the Healthy Climate Action Team of Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility as well as the Intersectional Committee on Climate Change and Health of the American Public Health Association. I am commenting today on my own behalf.

I wish to support the proposed HB 2021-1 with the request that the definition of "clean" energy is defined as having been clean all through its life-cycle, from extraction through processing and transportation, to use in producing electricity. This will help to exclude from inclusion energy sources that may be low emitters of greenhouse gases at the point when they produce electricity, but that have left an enduring legacy of contamination and emissions of greenhouse gases through their life cycle. At the same time, this definition of clean will pay attention to the impacts on communities affected adversely during extraction, processing, transportation, such as those living in mining and milling areas, or along transportation routes, or near waste storage or disposal sites. This will also help to protect workers who have suffered illness and death without having any of the benefits of the materials they have produced, and will encourage the inclusion of 'healthier' and more realistic climate solutions in our energy policies.

Thank you for your consideration of my concerns.

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