



4/5/2021

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

My name is Ira Cuello-Martinez and I am representing PCUN, Oregon's Farmworker Union. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB 2021-5, 100% clean energy for all.

At PCUN, we work to empower farm workers and working Latinx families and to improve the working and living conditions of Oregon's agricultural workers. We are based at the heart of the Oregon Latinx community, and in one of the most vibrant agricultural areas in the state.

In the last year, we have experienced severe wildfires and a drastic winter storm with many of our community members greatly impacted. These events create a greater burden on the economy and job opportunities are further limited as we continue navigating through a pandemic. The increase in frequency of extreme weather events are a result of climate pollution and we must take immediate action to address the issue. We know transitioning to 100% clean, renewable energy will tackle climate change and create a clean energy powered economy. We support HB 2021 because our communities would greatly benefit from the jobs created and economic development, increase in community resiliency, and be able to breathe cleaner air.

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 locally, pay the prevailing wage, 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 urge you to vote in favor of HB 2021 with the -5 amendment to support a strong 100% Clean Energy Standard with good jobs and community-based energy projects for Oregonians.

Sincerely,

Ira Cuello-Martinez
Climate Policy Associate
PCUN, Oregon's Farmworker Union