

03 April 2021

To: House Committee on Energy and Environment

Re: House Bill 2021

Dear Chair Representative Marsh, Vice-Chairs Representatives Helm and Brock Smith, and members of the Committee:

The sponsors of HB 2021 want the PUC "to study laws related to clean energy." My question is, what for? As introduced, House Bill 2021 is pretty vague. Study the laws? Okay, then what? Oh, give the results to the "interim committees." Well, that explains it. Those interim committees will then do what with the information? That's the part I'm questioning.

House Bill 2021 too vague, it is also too lean on reasons why this legislation is needed, why the PUC needs to pile more on their plate, as if it isn't already full enough. Missing explanations alone ought to raise a flag and arouse suspicions.

Should HB 2021 be moved out of committee, just what will the results of said study lead to? It is hard to imagine that following the time and money sunk into such a study that it will just be left lying on a shelf to collect dust. This study is a prelude to something and that something should be spelled out in the bill.

Inquiring minds want to know. And tax payers are getting tired of funding studies for unexplained reasons. Never mind if it's "already in the budget" as since when has the legislature been able to slow down spending as well as heaping study upon study?

It's as if the sponsor(s) and advocates for this bill just throw in the words "clean energy" and voilà, it must be a good idea! Apparently. It's as if HB 2021 just starts off with the basic premise that "if it's clean, it's good." No further explanations required.

For the above reasons I am opposed to this bill as introduced and urge the committee to table it without further ado and tell the sponsors to rewrite it including an explanation of its benefits to Oregonians.

Sincerely,

  
Richard Wisner