

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HB 2021

SUBMITTED 04/07/2021

Members of the House Committee on Energy and Environment:

We implore you to reject HB 2021 and insure that it does not pass out of Committee, as it ultimately will harm Oregonians by making energy scarce and extremely expensive, while providing no guarantee of meeting any “climate objective.”

Deceitful, disingenuous, dishonest, underhanded, duplicitous – these are just some of the adjectives that come to mind when I think of Oregon’s Democrat supermajority and the methods its members use to advance legislation. This year’s Session is the pinnacle of Democrat dirty dealing.

HB 2021 began life as a somewhat innocuous bill directing the PUC to “study laws related to clean energy . . . and provide results . . . by September 15, 2022 . . .” - but now, through amendments (and along with several other “climate” bills advancing through both houses) it seems to have morphed into a proxy cap-and-trade program for electric utilities.

The last minute inclusion of the 43-page -5 amendment, which from a quick reading appears to be a complex program to regulate electric utilities – burdening them with unrealistic social justice goals, excessive regulations, and unreachable goals - even restricting the construction of generating plants using any type of fossil fuels – fossil fuels that provide more than 60% of the energy used in Oregon. The idea that we can replace such a reliable and inexpensive power source with only wind and solar - while prohibiting nuclear and reducing hydroelectric resources is ridiculous! Our own regional power planning organization has indicated that we’re already on a path towards electricity shortage and brownouts. You people have no idea what you are doing - leave our electricity alone!

The climate change ideology being advanced by environmental extremists is extremely dangerous. The fact that it needs to be advanced by deceitful means demonstrates to me that its proponents realize that the general public will strongly object to the results that this type of legislation will produce. Bills such as HB 2021 will do nothing but create energy scarcity, and will give rise to massive increases in energy costs in a futile attempt to restore some kind of “climate optimum.” This bill will hurt Oregonians, especially the “women and minorities” it purports to advance.

The -5 amendment on its face is extremely objectionable. The disingenuous way it was presented should be grounds for killing this whole bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Keith and Tami LaHaie

Central Point, OR