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April 7, 2021

Dear Chair Marsh, Vice-Chair Brock Smith, Vice-Chair Helm and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB2021. My name is Alessandra de la Torre, I am the Energy Justice organizer at Rogue Climate, a grassroots climate justice group organizing in Southern Oregon and the South Coast. Rogue Climate strongly supports the concept of 100% Clean Energy For All and is excited to continue working in coalition with a wide group of stakeholders and legislators for a bill that maximizes the co-benefits of clean energy in low-income, rural, and other environmental justice communities.

This summer, Rogue Climate hosted virtual listening sessions in Coos, Klamath, and Jackson Counties to learn more about what our communities want to see in a transition to clean energy. We heard that folks are excited about what opportunities clean energy could bring into their communities and also that the transition to clean energy must center justice, especially for those who have been disproportionately impacted by the harms of our energy system. Listening session participants envisioned small community-based energy projects that created good local jobs that put food on their neighbors' tables. They envisioned a transition that was done with the urgency of the current climate crisis.

We believe the -5 and -9 amendments would, together, go a long way towards making our communities' vision a reality. The -5's are a strong framework for achieving 100% clean electricity by no later than 2040 with good interim emissions reduction targets, strong labor standards for new project construction, and structures for communities to shape the clean energy plans that utilities submit for state agency approval. The -9's will help create resources for community-based energy projects in the parts of Oregon that need them the most. This will help ensure benefits, like good jobs and tax revenue, are seen in communities across Oregon. We also want to thank Representative Owens for putting the -8 amendment forward with clear targets for Oregon's total electricity to come from community-based renewable energy projects and we would support incorporating it into HB 2021 or a future legislative effort. Our communities are committed to organizing and working hard to ensure that community-based energy projects happen here and Oregon workers see the benefits of this clean energy transition.



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At a previous Informational hearing, RMI said “the best year to do this is this year.” We agree. 2021 is the best year for Oregon to commit to a transition to 100% clean energy. Emissions-free energy, like wind and solar, is affordable and can help lift communities across Oregon out of the economic downturn that has resulted from the pandemic and the destructive summer wildfires in Oregon. The 100% Clean Energy for All Bill is a critical opportunity for Oregon to create jobs, boost local economies, and ensure a just transition when we need it most.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Alessandra de la Torre  
Energy Justice Organizer, Rogue Climate