

April 7, 2021

Comments Submitted re HB 221

Chair Marsh, Vice Chairs Brock-Smith and Helm
House Energy and Environment Committee
Oregon House of Representatives
State Capitol Building
Salem Oregon

My name is Angus Duncan, and today I'm submitting this testimony on behalf of myself. My qualifications for speaking to this bill include:

- Service as past Chair of the OGWC
- and as past Chair of the NW Conservation and Power Planning Council
- Some 20 years in the renewable energy private sector, developing large and small wind, solar, bioenergy and small hydro.
- And as a member of the diverse and representative negotiating table that helped write this bill.

I support HB 2021 as essential to the modernizing and decarbonizing of the NW regional power system. It will accelerate the transition already underway from coal and gas to the renewable, durable electricity sources that must displace the greenhouse gas emissions our fossil fueled power plants emit.

This transition can be accomplished cost-effectively even without monetizing and including the growing cost impacts of our failure to constrain those emissions; impacts you can see on any drive across the Cascades to Central Oregon; or Rep Brock-Smith can see in southwestern Oregon; or in the drought that is enveloping much of the American west including eastern Oregon.

With existing and new energy storage technologies, of the sort we called for in the region's 2007 Wind Integration Policy findings, we will have a system every bit as reliable as today's, or more so.

Of course none of us should be so certain of the future as to predict with perfect confidence what unanticipated conditions may influence this path. Some of these will certainly give us an assist. But we've written into the bill pauses to cope with cost and reliability challenges we cannot predict.

And the table agreed on a glide path, from now to 2040, to allow for this transition to take place *with* continuous progress toward that emissions-free goal and *without* the disruptions we *can* anticipate and avoid.

In a sane world we would have started down this decarbonizing path 30 years ago when I and others first raised the climate question in Power Council deliberations. We could have progressed much further down that pathway than our incessant temporizing has in fact permitted. So we are obliged today to follow a much steeper emissions curve down . . . but, happily, with better technology choices than we had earlier.

HB 2021 is a necessary stage in that restructured process.

It also positions Oregon well to make use of the electrical infrastructure investments we hope to see soon from Washington, as well as collaborating with our neighboring states within the western grid.

What about Rep Helm's approach, also under Committee consideration? I can appreciate its focus on renewables, which will be the lion's share of *any* emissions reduction strategy. But it can't be the only tool in the toolbox. Efficiency, demand management, interactive storage, transmission linkages (including to all that solar in SE OR) . . . all in different quantities and configurations that will vary over time . . . all will be necessary to back out emissions most effectively and cost-efficiently. Apart from the timing and rate impact issues raised by Mr. Jenks on Monday, I must weigh in against HB 3180 as just too one-dimensional.

On the other hand I had hoped, last week, to testify in support of Vice-Chair Brock-Smith's Offshore Wind legislation, HB 3375. I would remark in closing that HB 2021 and the acceleration of offshore wind development in Rep Brock-Smith's district are worthy complements to each other, and I hope they both draw support . . . from both sides of the aisle.

Thank you.