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April 7, 2021

House Committee on Energy and Environment  
Oregon State Capital  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

**Re: Testimony in Support of HB 2021-5**

Dear Chair Marsh, Vice Chair Helm, Vice Chair Brock Smith, and Members of the Committee:

The Green Energy Institute at Lewis & Clark Law School (GEI) would like to voice our strong support for HB 2021-5. GEI is a nonprofit energy and climate law and policy institute within Lewis & Clark's top-ranked environmental, natural resources, and energy law program. We work to address the climate crisis by developing and supporting laws and policies that enable a quick and equitable transition to a clean and renewable energy system. HB 2021-5 supports this objective by presenting a pathway for Oregon to build a renewable, resilient electricity grid while creating jobs and benefits for Oregon communities.

The electricity sector is the second-largest source of human-caused greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in Oregon. To achieve the science-backed GHG reduction targets adopted by the state legislature, Oregon must transition away from fossil fuel-fired electricity generation. HB 2021-5 would support this transition by establishing achievable targets for reducing GHG emissions from the state's electricity supply, while promoting the development of energy systems and infrastructure that provide direct benefits to Oregon's environmental justice communities.

HB 2021-5 would:

- Establish clear emissions reduction targets for electricity consumed in Oregon;
- Establish clear policy goals to maximize community benefits from this transition, including the creation of high-paying jobs, increased equity within Oregon's workforce, and increased security and resiliency within Oregon's electric grid;
- Prohibit the construction of new fossil fuel-fired electric plants in Oregon;
- Establish strong labor standards for utility-scale renewable energy development;
- Establish a forward-looking implementation framework that builds off existing long-term energy planning processes;
- Convene Community Benefits and Impacts Advisory Groups to inform electric companies of energy-related burdens and opportunities in impacted communities and help guide planning and investment decision-making; and
- Create mechanisms to ensure Oregon's electricity remains affordable and reliable.

HB 2021-5 incorporates input from a diverse group of stakeholders representing a broad range of interests yet share a common objective: to transition Oregon to a 100% clean electricity system.

Led by a robust coalition of community-based environmental justice organizations, stakeholders representing climate, energy, environmental, public health, and ratepayer advocacy organizations; electric utilities; state and local governments; business and industry associations; renewable energy developers, and labor organizations engaged in hundreds of hours of negotiations and analysis to develop a strategy for achieving this common objective. HB 2021-5 represents a consensus reached through a collaborative stakeholder effort and reflects the input of individuals and businesses from across the state. More importantly, HB 2021-5 presents an achievable strategy for Oregon to meet its clean energy goals.

We strongly urge the Committee to support HB 2021-5 and help ensure 100% clean electricity for Oregon. Thank you for considering our input.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amelia Schlusser". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Amelia Schlusser  
*Staff Attorney*  
*Green Energy Institute at Lewis & Clark Law School*