



Oregon House Bill 2021 - 100% Clean Energy for All

Chair Marsh, Vice-Chair Helm, Vice-Chair Brock Smith, and Members of the House Committee on Energy & Environment,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on provisions of House Bill (HB) 2021-5, 100% Clean Energy for All. This testimony is being provided by the Multnomah County Democratic Party, Article II Natural Resource Protection and Recovery study group, climate action team. The climate action team is made up of a variety of members in both urban and rural Multnomah County. The team actively works, both collectively and independently, to advance actions and legislation to reduce and ultimately eliminate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and support environmental and societal resilience to the impacts of climate change.

The 2020 Multnomah County Democratic Platform Article II (Natural Resources Protection and Recovery) Plank 11 states that, “We support providing incentives and mandates to speed up the adoption of advanced technology and infrastructure necessary for rapid transitioning to zero Greenhouse Gases emissions that are consistent with the best science.” We believe that HB 2021-5 is a step that will help move Oregon toward this goal.

As detailed in the report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC, 2018), in order to limit global warming to 1.5^o C global net human-caused carbon dioxide emissions need to fall 45 percent from 2010 levels by 2030, and reach net zero by 2050. One aspect of achieving the reduction targets is by reducing GHG emissions from our energy production and transmission systems, which is the focus of HB 2021.

The mandated goals of HB 2021-5 are better and sooner than the goals from the Greenhouse Gas Executive Order (20-04).

	Goal		Target
1	EO 20-04	Compared to 1990 baseline	
		Cut all emissions 45%	By 2035
		Cut all emissions 80%	By 2050
2	HB 2021-5	‘Baseline emissions level’ means the average annual emissions of greenhouse gas for the years 2010, 2011 and 2012 associated with the electricity sold to retail electricity consumers ...	
		Cut electricity emissions 40%	By 2025
		Cut electricity emissions 80%	By 2030
		Cut electricity emissions 90%	By 2035
		100% nonemitting energy	By 2040
3	IPCC	Compared to 2010	
		Cut all emissions 45%	By 2030
		Net Zero emissions	By 2050

Given the urgent need to achieve reductions, we support the compressed timeframe to reduce GHG emissions from power generation. We also support the identified transition to non-emitting energy, transitioning to removing carbon-based fuels from electric power production as identified in the bill. This strategy takes advantage of Utility cost savings as the cost of renewable and zero carbon energy continues to decline.

In addition, HB 2021-5 charters the Public Utilities Commission (PUC, Section 4) to task the Environmental Quality Commission (EQC, Section 4) and Department of Energy (DOE, Section 15) to require utilities to transition to “nonemitting” electricity by target dates. This is achieved, in-part by requiring electric utilities to identify clean energy targets (Section 3) and plans (Section 4) to the Oregon PUC for formal acknowledgment of compliance with this bill. Compliance will be determined by the EQC and reported by the EQC to the PUC (Section 5). Reduction in power quality or reliability invalidates compliance.

In conjunction with potential future Federal funding and programs, HB 2021-5 can help us to ensure that the communities in Oregon that are struggling the most from the pandemic and its economic impacts, extreme weather events, and wildfires are the same communities that benefit from clean energy. That is why the Oregon legislature must take action.

We can build a strong, resilient, and clean energy economy in our communities by ensuring that Oregon’s 100% Clean Energy Standard includes:

- Strong labor standards, (Section 23) that ensure clean energy projects hire local, pay the prevailing wage and provide good benefits, and reserve opportunities for apprenticeships.
- Good incentives for community-based energy projects such as solar plus storage that increase energy independence, affordability, and disaster-resilience.
- Provisions that prioritize benefits and avoid harms to environmental justice communities including BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and people of color), low-income communities, Tribes, and rural and coastal communities.

We have the opportunity to increase local community ownership of energy, job opportunities and economic development, and the health and safety of communities throughout the state. Globally, the burning of fossil fuels was responsible for 20% of deaths in 2018 and pollution from facilities like gas-fired power plants leads to worse outcomes of COVID-19. By setting clear targets for cleaning up Oregon’s electricity and supporting community-based energy projects and good jobs for local communities, we can seize the opportunity of clean energy to help rebuild from today’s many crises.

We encourage independent solar companies to be able to work in Oregon without undue barriers from the power companies such as the green tariff program or not allowing third party developers access to Renewable Energy Credits. We are also looking for regulation to site electricity projects in Oregon and not outside the state such as a 50% in-state siting requirement

including community based small scale projects. Lastly, the bill needs adequate penalties if targets are not met.

Thank you for your time and for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2021-5. Please support a strong 100% Clean Energy Standard with good jobs and community-based energy projects for Oregonians.

Sincerely, The Multnomah County Democratic Party Climate Action Team, 7 April 2021