

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

I support House Bill 2021 (with the -5 and -9 amendments) and urge you to do the same, so that all our Oregon communities can experience and benefit from a transition to clean energy.

I'm a 15+ year resident of Oregon and currently live in NE Portland. I've dedicated the last many years of my life to working alongside rural and small town Oregonians, people of faith and fierce love, immigrants and low-income working people, to create an Oregon where all its residents can live safe, healthy and fulfilling lives. These days, in this current pandemic-reality, I divide my time working from home as an organizer with the Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice and caring for and supporting the schooling of my two young children, AJ and Tovik.

As a mother, I've witnessed the toll that this pandemic - and the wildfires last summer - have taken on my own children. The social isolation, the fear (are you sure our house won't burn down, mama? what will happen if grandma and grandpa get Covid? who is going to die first - you or dad?), the stress and anxiety. As an Oregonian, my heart breaks to see the ways that my children's friends and classmates with less economic privilege - and especially their BIPOC friends and neighbors - have suffered so much more and even more acutely, and to know how children around the state, including those living in rural communities, in and near the line of the fires, on the Warm Springs Reservation, etc. - have been especially hard hit by these crises.

I want all of Oregon's children - and our children's children - to benefit from clean energy. That is why I urge you to support a House Bill 2021 that prioritizes the health and well-being of communities who are disproportionately harmed by environmental disasters, that includes strong labor standards to ensure the transition to clean energy creates good jobs with fair wages, and incentivizes community-based energy projects.

Please support a strong 100% Clean Energy Standard. Do it for Oregon's children.

Sincerely,  
Sarah K. Loose