



April 8, 2021

To: House Committee on Energy and Environment

**RE: Oregon House Bill 2021, 100% Clean Energy for All**

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

My name is Nikita Daryanani, and I am the Climate and Energy Policy Manager at the Coalition of Communities of Color (CCC), an alliance of culturally-specific community based organizations. I am writing to express our strong support for House Bill 2021 and the -5 and -9 amendments to achieve 100% clean energy for all Oregonians.

As we transform our energy systems to respond to the impacts of climate change and pollution, it is essential that we lead with environmental justice. This means ensuring that the communities who have historically faced and continue to face the worst impacts of climate disasters, and economic and public health crises are the first to benefit from clean and renewable energy and are not further harmed by our energy systems. This harm has taken the form of polluting power plants located in communities of color, unaffordable electricity for low-income families, and lack of job opportunities in the clean energy sector.

Through HB 2021, we can ensure that communities made up of Black, Indigenous, and people of color, such as those that CCC's member organizations work with, and coastal, rural, and low-income communities can share in the benefits of a clean energy future. Hiring targets for women, BIPOC, and marginalized groups to receive living-wage, local jobs in the clean energy industry will help achieve this. And we must also create opportunities for community-based clean energy projects since local, small-scale renewable energy projects have some of the greatest potential to increase wealth and improve disaster preparedness. When paired with battery storage or microgrids, these projects can build community resilience during natural disasters by allowing residents uninterrupted access to electricity and critical services. This is important for communities of color and low-income communities, as these are the people who are hit first and worst when disasters strike.

Community-based energy projects also provide economic benefits and jobs by reducing energy costs and increasing opportunities for community ownership over energy and resources, which helps build long-term wealth in communities that need it. And because all communities are different, localized projects can have other co-benefits that help meet specific needs. CCC strongly believes that small-scale renewable energy investments in historically underserved communities are a key strategy to building a clean energy economy from which all communities can participate and benefit, and support the -9 amendment towards this aim.

Through the -5 and -9 amendments, we have an opportunity to shape House Bill 2021 to be a strong, holistic vision for an energy system that serves and benefits all Oregonians. We are proud to be part of the coalition of organizations working to set this critical standard for the state and strongly urge your support and collaboration on 100% Clean Energy For All Oregonians. Thank you very much for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nikita Daryanani".

Nikita Daryanani, Climate and Energy Policy Manager, Coalition of Communities of Color

