



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

Oregon's *Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice* (IMIrJ) supports House Bill 2021 with the -5 and -9 amendments, the 100% Clean Energy for All bill.

Founded in 2006, IMIrJ is in relationship with over 160 faith communities throughout the state. Our IMIrJ community includes thousands of people of faith and fierce love from a myriad of backgrounds and religious traditions. We are immigrants and US-born. We live in Oregon's rural and small towns, suburbs, and urban centers.

Many of our faith and wisdom traditions include stories and teachings on how the Earth came to be and how we, as humans, came to and are called to live upon it. One thing we hold in common across our traditions is a deep reverence for the sacredness of the Earth and all the beings that call Earth home. At a most fundamental level then, this is why we support House Bill 2021. We see HB 2021, and the transition to a clean energy economy, as one important step towards stewarding the Earth's gifts in a way that will help ensure the health, strength and resilience of Oregon's land and all of its people. Like our many partners working and leading the way on this campaign, we believe it's critical that Oregon's 100% Clean Energy Standard includes:

- Strong labor standards 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.

During this past summer's wildfires, we witnessed the ways in which communities already hardest hit by systemic racism, the climate crisis, and economic inequality bore the brunt of this latest crisis. We also witnessed the incredible resilience and kindness of Oregonians of all walks of life. Congregations across the state prepared to open their doors to welcome those fleeing from the fires. Dozens of volunteers from our IMIrJ community worked tirelessly to get needed supplies and food to families impacted by the fires - and especially to immigrant families who found themselves excluded from more official relief efforts. Many of these volunteers were immigrants themselves. Local leaders, rooted in their own local communities, organized mutual

aid efforts, reached out to neighbors, and continue to lead the way on inclusive relief and recovery.

It is this steadfast belief in our collective resilience and resourcefulness, an understanding that we *all* benefit by centering the perspectives, voices and well-being of those hit first and worst by the crises we face, and our sense of shared responsibility to care for the Earth and one another that lead us to support HB 2021.

We know that what we do and how we decide to confront the many crises we face, impact not just us and those we love, but our whole human and planetary family. 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 can rebuild towards an Oregon where all can thrive, together.

And so we join in support of HB 2021 and invite you to do the same.

Sincerely,

The Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice