

I opposes any proposal that saddles ratepayers with higher electricity costs.

I am concerned that HB 2021 lacks adequate protections for ratepayers and urge the Committee to ensure that the costs of HB 2021 are not increased past what were being charged currently. COVID-19 has negatively effected our State and many are still really struggling. We cannot afford more rate increases.

I am also concerned about the impacts of HB 2021 to grid reliability, as reliability is important especially during the cold winters. The 2021 ice storms illustrated the importance of ensuring a resilient and reliable electric grid, as hundreds-of- thousands of Oregonians were left without power for several days or more. Requiring electricity providers to derive electricity from less reliable sources at a time when demand is increasing is a recipe for brownouts and rolling blackouts. I am concerned that customers of investor- owned utilities could experience issues with reliability without an adequate resource mix or off- ramps from this ambitious policy.

I am concerned that HB 2021 puts in place aggressive goals that are not achievable. Oregon already has some of the most affordable and clean electricity in the country; the State also has passed several policies that support the transition to clean and renewable power. These policies should be given an opportunity to work before the Oregon legislature adopts such a significant new program. I urge the committee not to establish goals that are impossible to meet.

My last point, I am concerned that customers of investor- owned utilities could be paying for their green energy to be produced in bordering states which will supply us but we would not benefit from green energy jobs or the tax revenue.

The ambitious goals in HB 2021 will be challenging to meet, particularly in a way that protects electric customers from unexpected rate hikes and ensures grid reliability. HB 2021 needs additional scrutiny to better understand the costs of this policy in terms of rate impacts, grid reliability and in-state production jobs and revenue. Until that time, I urge you to vote "NO" on HB 2021.

Sincerely,
Jen Hamaker