



May 13th, 2021

Chair Representative Nancy Nathanson and Vice-Chairs Rep. Khan Pham and Rep. E. Werner Reschke and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of House Bill 2021-A and the -A46 amendments, 100% Clean Energy for All. My name is Ana Molina, and I with Beyond Toxics a statewide environmental justice organization I am their Statewide Environmental Justice Projects Manager. Beyond Toxics works on advancing policies that ensure meaningful participation and cultivate grassroots leadership from Oregon's frontline and impacted communities. As an organization that works at the intersection of race and public health we ask you to move HB 2021-A forward in order to achieve 100% clean energy for all Oregonians.

Through House Bill 2021-A we have an opportunity 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 a clean energy future. The -A46 amendments successfully center community-based renewable energy and resiliency in the planning that will be necessary to reach a 100% clean grid by 2040.

As an organization that works on advancing policies that ensure meaningful participation from grassroots leadership in Oregon's frontline and impacted communities we recognize that HB 2021-A must include required thresholds and hiring targets for women, Black, Indigenous, People of Color, and marginalized groups in the clean energy workforce, and ensure that workers are paid living wages with benefits and apprenticeship opportunities. This will secure good, well-paying local energy jobs to build project in Oregon communities and set them on path to a just transition that our communities can meaningfully engage in.

We work with our community in West Eugene who is already disproportionately affected by air pollution in their neighborhood. Communities of color are also disproportionately burdened by the fossil fuel economy, that creates harmful air pollution that can worsen lung disease, heart disease, and other health conditions in many communities. In order to protect the health of communities, we must have tangible emission reduction goals, maintaining strong mandated targets to reach 100% clean by 2040, and strong interim targets will help ensure we're on track to achieving the emission reduction goals an improving the health of our communities in Oregon.

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 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, including forthcoming language that acknowledges the particular need to consider cultural resource impacts in energy development.

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 are proud to be part of the coalition of organizations working to set this critical standard for the state and strongly urge your support for a stronger HB 2021-A46 amendment that creates good jobs, and increase access to resiliency and community-based energy projects for Oregonians. We cannot let another year pass without out passing meaningful legislation for Oregon communities.

Sincerely,
Ana Molina
Eugene, Oregon
Beyond Toxics
Statewide Environmental Justice Projects Manager