

Good afternoon Chair Nathanson, Vice Chairs Pham and Reshke and members of the committee. For the record I'm Mark Gamba, the Mayor of Milwaukie and I'm writing today on behalf of the city of Milwaukie and as the chair of the Metro Mayor's Consortium Energy and Environment subcommittee. The MMC supports bills only with a 70% majority vote.

Let me start by saying that Milwaukie and the Metro Mayors are in support of HB 2021A with the -46 amendment which only strengthens an already effective bill.

As the deadly firestorms last summer and the deadly ice storm a few months ago amply illustrate, climate chaos is beginning to have deadly and destructive effects right here in Oregon. It is more critical than ever that we not only work to reduce our greenhouse gases, but that we work to prepare our energy systems for the more intense storms of the future that are already baked in by our relative inaction to address climate chaos since we learned about it over 40 years ago.

This bill will help Oregon meet the climate goals it set decades ago and it will do so in a way that is equitable. There have been a wide variety of stake holders engaged on this in an effort to make it both effective and equitable.

A key provision in this bill both for the Mayors and Milwaukie is the opt out method of community aggregation. We already have the ability to opt in to a green tariff system, but the ability for a city or a county to negotiate a program for the entire city will cause the end product to be cheaper because we can guarantee a higher uptake in the program. It will also allow our low-income families to participate with no additional expense to their already tight budgets. All work we do going forward must center our low income and BIPOC neighbors.

This bill addresses resiliency, local renewable energy projects and fair labor concerns, all of which are important to the Mayors and to the City of Milwaukie.

If Oregon hopes to keep up with rest of the west coast in this climate work and to meet its own goals, this is a critical bill. We urge passage.

Thank you!