



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Testimony in Support of HB 2021-46

May 13, 2021

Chair Nathanson, Vice Chair Reschke and Members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Khanh Pham. I represent House District 46, and I am honored to testify today regarding House Bill 2021 and particularly the -46 amendments.

Colleagues, House Bill 2021 is known as the "100% Clean Energy for All" bill, and I've had the privilege of working on HB 2021 in the House Energy and Environment Committee alongside a broad array of stakeholders from a wide range of important sectors including environmental justice advocates, labor advocates, local governments, electric utilities, ratepayer advocates, renewable developers, environmental and climate groups, researchers and public health experts, and community members participating in the Energy Justice Leadership Institute. We have heard from a lot of different people and groups from all over the state of Oregon who say that we are ready to chart the course towards 100% clean energy in Oregon, and do it in a way that works for our communities, especially for people who need relief the most.

I also feel grateful to have been part of community organizing in 2020, working with communities and stakeholders from every corner of the state, to help envision and set the stage for this collaborative policy. And now, over a year later, I am heartened to see that so many different stakeholders have come together under difficult circumstances to find common ground, compromise, and consensus.

This is a different face and approach to energy policy, deeply grounded in environmental justice. The -46 amendment comes a long way from where the -1 amendments were, and this bill represents a substantial, targeted investment in **community-based** renewable energy projects for Oregon communities. We have common goals that will be achieved in HB 2021: creating economic development in the parts of Oregon that need it most, ensuring that Oregon workers are well-supported in entering and participating in the clean energy workforce, and ensuring that at every step of the way, low-income, BIPOC, rural, and coastal communities are shaping the transition to 100% clean electricity and are not left out of the benefits.

Oregon has experienced unprecedented wildfires, intense ice storms, and each summer the heat gets more and more intense. These examples underscore a need to adapt to a changing climate and the need for energy resiliency. We need to seek out justice-based solutions to these challenges in every sector. HB 2021 will help do that by investing in disaster-resilient, community-based energy projects in parts of Oregon where there are not many funding sources for community-based renewable energy.

We have an opportunity to pass a strong 100% clean electricity bill through the -46 amendment that is grounded in the principles of environmental justice. This bill offers us the chance to reduce pollution and greenhouse gas emissions while seeding local projects for community ownership of electricity, **good-paying jobs that contribute to economic development**. These amendments have been written in a way to include any viable technology that the state can procure that does not place undue harm or burden on environmental justice communities. By setting **clear** targets for generating all our electricity from renewable and non-emitting sources, **we can clear the way for benefits spanning the entire state, from development of solar on**

the east side of the Cascades to offshore wind along the Pacific coastline. There can be investment into **battery development** and time of use electricity rates that will help create a “smart grid”. The buildout of green infrastructure will spur jobs throughout Oregon. Moving our state away from fossil fuels dependence will also help achieve our goals to mitigate the extreme weather events that will continue to occur.

The time to pass this bill is this session. I look forward to Oregon passing a 100% clean energy standard that benefits impacted communities and that will create the clean energy opportunities and investments that we need. For these reasons, I urge your support for HB 2021. Thank you.