



February 4, 2022

Chair Marsh  
House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources  
Oregon State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301

**Re: Support for HB 4059**

Chair Marsh and Members of the Committee,

The passage of HB 2021 last year was a milestone for both the environment and organized labor. By including strong labor, wage, and apprenticeship standards in the law, Oregon committed to a 100% clean energy future that lifts up everyone in the State. HB 4059 restores the original intent of HB 2021, providing apprenticeship opportunities for renewable energy projects of 2 MW or greater, and community solar facilities of 3 MW or greater. As HB 4059 comes before the House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, we submit these comments in strong support. Climate Solutions is a regional non-profit working to accelerate clean energy solutions to the climate crisis.

According to a 2021 study by the Political Economy Research Institute, the average compensation for clean energy workers is far lower than for fossil fuel workers. Apprenticeship programs will help narrow that gap. They will also skill up workers in Oregon and help underserved communities to benefit from the clean energy transition. We are confident that renewable energy projects will be developed affordably and efficiently in Oregon while meeting the apprenticeship and labor requirements set out in this bill.

We urge your support for HB 4059. Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

*Joshua Basofin*

Joshua Basofin  
Clean Energy Policy Manager  
Climate Solutions