

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3705

COMMITTEES:  
APPROPRIATIONS  
BUDGET  
ENVIRONMENT AND  
PUBLIC WORKS  
FOREIGN RELATIONS  
RULES AND  
ADMINISTRATION

July 24, 2022

Mr. Daniel Hale  
PO Box 549  
Stanfield, OR 97875-0549

I hereby declare this letter was in response specifically regarding this OCS legislative matter. Senator's Oregon office gave permission for use as support testimony.

Dear Daniel,

D Hale

Thank you for contacting me to share your enthusiasm for developing and deploying renewable energy. I share your support, and I appreciate hearing from you.

Changing how we produce energy is essential if we are to meet the challenge posed by climate chaos and protect everyone's right to clean air and a healthy environment. Currently, our energy sector relies heavily on burning fossil fuels, which releases carbon dioxide and toxic chemicals into the atmosphere. While the renewable energy industry has grown tremendously in the last decade, we must continue to find ways to expedite the deployment of clean energy and quicken the transition.

I introduced the *Sustainable Financial Institutions Act (S. 3106)* to tackle the problem of international financial institutions helping to finance fossil fuel projects that are accelerating climate chaos. This bill would ensure that the United States uses its voice and vote in international financial institutions to divest from fossil fuel investments. It would also prohibit the United States from providing direct or indirect assistance to any country or entity to support any fossil fuel activity.

I will continue to push a range of solutions to change how we produce and consume energy. I introduced the first plan in the Senate to fully end the use of fossil fuels, and last year, I introduced the *Keep it in the Ground Act (S. 1115)*, which would prohibit new fossil fuel leasing on public lands and waters. Last Congress, I introduced the *Protecting America's Economy from the Carbon Bubble Act (S. 4835)* to help safeguard the economy by prohibiting financial companies from making new investments in fossil fuels —investments that are not only accelerating climate chaos, but also risk destabilizing the global economy.

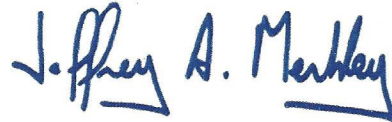
As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I have consistently fought for funding for energy technology development at the Department of Energy and energy efficiency programs, expanded research on wind and solar power, and other critical programs.

Whether we rise to the challenge posed by climate chaos will determine if our children live in a more prosperous and healthy nation. Transitioning to a clean energy economy that runs on good American jobs is critical to meeting that challenge. As a member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, I will continue to lead toward solutions that meet this defining test.

Please know that I will keep your views in mind as discussions on American investments in clean energy technology take place in the Senate.

Thank you, again, for sharing your thoughts with me. I hope you will continue to send your concerns and observations my way.

All my best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeffrey A. Merkley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line under the name.

Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator

JM/hi