



## Jessica Vega Pederson Multnomah County Commissioner

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Chair Marsh & members of the House Committee on Energy & Environment,

I am writing to you today to voice my strong support for HB 2021-5, which will set our state on a path to fully decarbonize our electrical grid. This legislation builds upon years of work to decarbonize Oregon's economy, and is crucial for our efforts to address the global climate crisis and invest in the communities on the frontlines of climate change.

In 2016, I served as a state legislator representing east Portland, and I had the privilege of chairing the House Committee on Energy & Environment. That year, I led our chamber's efforts to pass SB 1547, legislation that at the time was a groundbreaking step towards decarbonizing our economy. Since then, however, the urgency of the climate crisis has only grown, and the standards set in that legislation need to be enhanced to address the progress we've made and the enormity of the crisis in front of us.

When I took office as a Multnomah County Commissioner in 2017, one of my first initiatives was passing Multnomah County's 100% renewable energy by 2050 commitment in partnership with the City of Portland. While meaningful, that policy is limited to one of our state's 36 counties, and only statewide action can ensure that Oregon is doing what it can to address the climate crisis.

The challenge before us necessitates immediate action to aggressively decarbonize every sector of our economy in order to avoid catastrophic and irreversible consequences. Oregon must do its part in this effort, and we have fallen behind our neighbors. In 2018, California passed SB 100, which requires the world's 5th largest economy to be powered by 100% clean energy by 2045. In 2019, Washington state enacted SB 5116, which set the same goal. It is time for Oregon to update its 2016 Renewable Portfolio Standard.

This policy will not only advance our climate goals, it will also deliver meaningful investments to frontline communities and good, middle class jobs to thousands of Oregonians across the state, and many will be available to those without a college degree. The clean energy industry is poised to

generate thousands of jobs and deliver new opportunities for innovation to industries throughout our state. Oregon should take this step to commit to an aggressive clean energy transition in order to draw this vital industry and the jobs and community investments that will accompany it to our state.

I urge you to support HB 2021-5.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jessica Vega Pederson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jessica Vega Pederson  
Multnomah County Commissioner