

submitted 8/16/16
Measure - Clean Energy ~~and~~
Council mtg

@ Ashland City Council Regular Business Meeting August 16

Good Evening. My name is Dave Helmich, I live at 468 Williamson Way. I am one of the Chief Petitioners for the 10 by 20 Initiative. I'm here tonight to ask you to seriously consider adopting the initiative without an election.

Circulators gathered more than 1700 signatures over possibly 2 months. It was not very difficult.

While I was gathering signatures, I was able to survey attitudes about the City's level of proactivity, if that's really a word, with regard to the Great Transition. As a measure of receptivity, approximately 80% of qualified voters readily agreed to sign the petition. Informal conversation with other circulators indicates the same receptivity.

The most frequent comments I received were (1) why only 10%? and (2) displeasure (edited for our audience) at the perceived lack of true action to move us ahead into the new reality.

When we formulated the proposed ordinance, we did it with the knowledge that 10% would not destabilize the system. A higher percentage could have. We were not in charge of the system so we felt it was appropriate to ask for a meaningful increment but of a financial and output size that was manageable--10% is.

Please provide the leadership we have entrusted to you. Just know that while we all support the work, for example, of the ACE commission, it is *perceived* as kicking the can down the road. Not fair perhaps, but a very real perception.

Once this ordinance is adopted (with or without your support) there be a lot of work: Contractual with BPA and probably Pac Power; type and location of alternatives; financing or partnerships decisions; etc. I am under no illusions, and I am certain you all are not either, this will take commitment to accomplish.

On another point, financing this will likely never be less expensive. If interest rates go lower, we probably have much bigger problems as a country but for now we should be capitalizing on the low cost of funds.

2020 is close. If we start now with all the public participation and environmental issues that will need resolution we get an additional few months to organize compared to waiting for November 8's results. The Department can use all of that time to get this organized. You all know how slow and methodical this must be. The Department will need to recruit talent to manage this.

The ordinance was drafted to place the responsibility on the City to make all the decisions to get to 10% by the deadline rather than tying its hands as to how to get there. The public is expecting 10%. You figure it out. That will be your job.

So it would be a lot simpler if, in the words of an American hero, John Lewis, you would get on the bus. Please adopt the initiative. Let's get started!

