

Testimony in Support of SB 562  
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SB 562 could be a step in the right direction for Oregon and its communities. It is a proposal that sets us on the path to community investment in renewable energy generation, and at the same time allowing customers to benefit as consumers from the investment and the energy savings that could be generated.

While this is a net metering proposal for all forms of renewable energy generation of up to 2 megawatts of capacity, it does allow for greater production if approved by the utility in their service territory. It does not limit ownership of the facility – public or private or nonprofit or public/private –so that communities would be allowed to envision a future that is beyond what we know now.

Whether this bill were for net metering opportunities only, or a proposal that encourages Oregon community renewable energy development (as a qualified facility using avoided cost provisions) it is a good step in the right direction because community-owned, community run projects, though few in number up to this point, tend to be a better development investments (than for larger facilities) because of the greater return on investment—keeping dollars local.

Each of the renewable resources have their level of cost for generation, but depending on where the resource to be used is located/generated within the state, the net metering value could be maximized for all of the ratepayers of the utility as well as for the customers of the community facility.

There will no doubt be standard reasons for opposing this proposal, but generally SB 562 moves us in a direction where all of Oregon communities might benefit in the future – reducing our dependence on fossil fuels, meeting our increasing energy needs, and creation of jobs while improving investments in the community.