



Oregon Senate
Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

HB 2820 B Public Comments
May 15, 2013

Dear Chair Dingfelder and members of the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources:

Oregon Solar Energy Industries Association (OSEIA) is a non-profit trade group established in 1981 that represents a diverse constituency from small, residential rooftop solar installers to the largest U.S. manufacturer of solar photovoltaic (PV) panels.

OSEIA applauds the collaboration between the Oregon Department of Energy, the Department of Land Conservation and Development, Associated Oregon Counties, solar developers and municipal planners in crafting an effective bill that provides greater certainty with respect to large-scale solar siting in Oregon. There is still work to be done on this bill, but OSEIA is confident that with the proper amendments – in discussion but not yet drafted - will get us where we need to be.

Oregon has a tremendous opportunity to leverage solar energy for large-scale project development, particularly in rural lands where little or no economic alternatives exist. OSEIA commissioned Chris Robertson, an energy consultant with 30 years of experience, to study the potential for solar in Oregon over the next 20 years. We recently published the report known as the “Vision to Integrate Solar in Oregon,” or VISOR. In it, the author claims that 20% of Oregon’s energy supply could be derived from solar energy using 65 square miles of Oregon land. By comparison, Lake County alone, where two “utility-scale” projects recently came online, encompasses 8,358 square miles. We have plenty of room to develop this ubiquitous solar resource. I have submitted the VISOR to accompany my testimony, and I encourage you to read the Executive Summary which contains the highlights of this 60 page document.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Glenn Montgomery". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Glenn Montgomery, Executive Director, OSEIA