

Dear Senator Beyer and Members of the Committee,

I live outside Pendleton, Oregon and get my power from a rural electrification cooperative or an REC- ours is the Umatilla Electric Coop or UEC. The REC's have no programs to help promote solar like what Pacific Power and Portland Electric have for their customers. We would love to have solar power out here but can't afford to do it by ourselves. This is especially true after the nine hour outage we had last Wednesday and the fourteen hour outage we had last spring. When our power is out we have no water, because we all have our own wells. That means no toilet flushing or showers and for many no heat.

UEC has a huge area to service and is always extremely slow at fixing problems. If we had solar and a battery bank we could weather these outages. Please do whatever you can to make it easier for us to get access to solar energy.

There is no definition in Oregon law of what a renewable energy cooperative even is. This bill would define a structure by which individual Oregonians voluntarily come together to fund and build natural energy systems in their community, and it would also exempt these community enterprises from onerous and expensive registration requirements with the state investment regulator.

Thanks,

Buffy Hake
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