

Dear Senator Beyer and Members of the Committee,

I'm writing today in support of the Senate Committee on Business and Transportation for SB 1520.

As a small non-profit advocating for solar energy in our region, Solar Oregon has been involved in a number of discussions regarding the possibility of community solar with people representing cities small and large, schools, community centers, churches, and private parties. However, these plans and ideas were not realized mainly due to the number of barriers placed on community projects, not the least being costs for legal and accounting costs associated with securities registration. All too often, when they attempt to jointly develop a renewable energy project, they run into legal and regulatory barriers, and securities registration is a big one.

SB 1520 simply amends ORS 59.025 by adding community renewable energy cooperative corporations to the list of cooperatives exempted from securities registration. Agricultural cooperatives, fishing cooperatives and cooperative grocery stores are currently exempted from securities registration.

Solar Oregon requests that you adjust our state laws to bring down these costly barriers and allow for a more cooperative approach to buying solar. Oregonians have resoundingly supported solar power over the past five years, but many cannot participate unless we allow people to create community solar coops to be formed. This bill is a good first step in making this opportunity a reality.

I urge you to support SB 1520.

Regards,

~ Ron "Mac" McDowell

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