



February 3, 2016

TO: Senator Lee Beyer, Chair, Senate Committee on Business and Transportation
Members, Senate Committee on Business and Transportation

FR: Charlie Coggeshall, Oregon Solar Energy Industries Association, Clean Energy Collective

RE: Support of SB 1572

Senator Lee and Members of the Senate Committee on Business and Transportation,

SB 1572 is an opportunity for Oregon to make solar energy accessible to all Oregonians. We thank you for your consideration of the legislation and encourage passage of the bill.

SB 1572 is an important piece of legislation for Oregon and its residents. The legislation would open up access to solar energy for all residents and businesses, allowing the potential for everyone to enjoy the economic and environmental benefits of clean energy. Community solar allows anyone, regardless of whether or not they can put solar panels on their roof, to own and control their own renewable energy generation. By doing so, each individual is allowed to choose their own energy future, supplying their energy needs from generation that they control.

Community solar is already successfully being implemented in multiple states across the nation and with many different types of utilities, serving thousands of customers. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, there are more than 90 community solar projects in 25 states, and at least 14 states plus Washington D.C. which have already established community solar enabling legislation. It's been described as the fastest growing market segment of the solar industry, and could result in up to 11 gigawatts of solar capacity being installed in the U.S. by 2020.

The Oregon Solar Energy Industries Association (OSEIA) is a trade association founded in 1981 to promote clean, renewable, solar technologies. OSEIA works with industry leaders, academic scholars, legislators, government, and non-profit agencies to advocate for solar technologies and raise awareness of its potential to help secure an affordable, reliable, and clean energy future. OSEIA supports the bill's intent to enable a competitive community solar market that fosters innovation and allows for broad participation among Oregon residents and businesses. OSEIA encourages it to be passed and implemented in conjunction with existing and future solar and renewable energy programs in the state.

Clean Energy Collective, or CEC, is a member of OSEIA, of which I am on the Board of Directors. I have the unique experience of working for the nation's largest developer of community solar projects. CEC was founded seven years ago, and in that short amount of time has grown to over 100 employees and projects with at least 25 different utilities in 11 states.



Based on my company's experience in this sector, I can directly testify to the importance of strong, well-designed community solar legislation, and believe SB 1572 achieves that goal.

In general, OSEIA is very supportive of SB 1572 and thank Senator Beyer for his efforts. We urge you to pass the bill and allow all Oregonians the chance to access their own clean energy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charlie Coggeshall".

Charlie Coggeshall

Board of Directors
Oregon Solar Energy Industries Association

Policy Analyst
Clean Energy Collective