



Feb 7, 2018

Chair Gomberg and members of the House Committee On Economic Development and Trade:

OSEIA is testifying in strong support of HB 4121.

The Oregon Solar Energy Industries Association (OSEIA) is a trade association founded in 1981 to promote clean, renewable, solar technologies. OSEIA represents over 100 members that include businesses, non-profit groups, and other solar industry stakeholders throughout the state of Oregon.

HB 4121 restores support for residential solar in all of Oregon, particularly in rural areas. By restoring support, the Home WRAP program provides rural Oregonians the same freedom to choose their energy sources provided to many urban residents through city and utility programs such as the Energy Trust of Oregon.

As of 2017, Oregon's solar industry consists of over 160 companies employing about 4,000 people. HB 4121 helps us to keep the momentum built over the last decade – the industry estimates losing support for residential solar would cost between 30-50% of the jobs in the residential sector and set the solar industry back by slowing our momentum and losing valuable trained workforce to other states.

The abrupt ending of the incentive program in Washington resulted in the loss of 20-25% of solar jobs. Washington learned from their mistake and re-started the incentive. Oregon's market is 2-3 times larger than Washington's. If Oregon's incentive goes away, many of our highly trained technicians and well-paid installers will have to look for out-of-state work.

While solar technology continues to evolve at a rapid pace (residential solar costs have been cut in half over the last seven years), the overall investment in solar needs short-term assistance to continue to help Oregonians have a choice to invest in and generate renewable energy. The Home WRAP provides a gradual step-down program, allowing the industry to transition to a more sustainable level over the next four years.

Respectfully Submitted,

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