



Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem Oregon 97301

February 14, 2019

Dear Chairs Dembrow and Power, Vice-Chairs Bentz and Brock Smith, and members of the committee,

The Oregon Solar Energy Industries Association (OSEIA) is a trade association founded in 1981 to promote clean, renewable, solar technologies. OSEIA members include businesses, non-profit groups, and other solar industry stakeholders. We provide a unified voice of the solar industry and focus exclusively on the solar value chain; from workforce development to permitting, advocacy, policy, and regulation for manufacturing, residential, commercial, community, and utility scale solar projects on the local, state and regional level.

OSEIA urges your support of HB 2020. The Oregon Climate Action Program has an enormous potential to create clean energy jobs in Oregon and the solar industry is ready to create those jobs. There are solar projects in all 36 Oregon counties, ranging from small residential projects that help reduce homeowners' energy bills to large utility-scale projects that are thousands of acres and reduce Oregon's reliance on fossil fuel energy.

The proceeds from this program create a great opportunity to establish new solar jobs. The solar industry employs manufacturers, designers, planners, materials handlers, installers, electricians, and sales teams in order to complete a project. The proceeds will create new employment opportunities in every corner of the state, for people with all education levels and backgrounds. Working in the solar industry is an excellent opportunity for impacted communities and OSEIA is committed to developing a strong and diverse workforce.

In particular, the Oregon Climate Action Program can help get community solar projects off the ground. Not everyone can have solar on their roof but a community solar project allows everyone in the community, including low-income ratepayers, to enjoy the benefits of solar. When coupled with battery storage, solar projects contribute to Oregon's energy self-sufficiency and disaster recovery infrastructure. The proceeds from this program can help make those projects pencil out.

In the five-year period between 2013 and 2018, solar employment increased 70% overall, adding 100,000 jobs. By comparison, overall U.S. employment grew only 9.13% during that same period. In Oregon, the loss of the state solar incentive meant that solar jobs dropped by 8% in 2018. With proceeds available for solar projects, those jobs will come right back.

Solar has been generating carbon-free and pollution-free energy in Oregon for decades. This innovative and forward-looking policy will both reduce pollution and create jobs, a win-win for Oregonians. OSEIA urges your strong support of HB 2020.