

February 26, 2019



Honorable Representatives of the Oregon House Energy and Environment Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to share A&R Solar's support for HB 2618. This bill confirms that Oregon supports a clean-energy future and is committed to regulatory certainty for the Oregon businesses building it.

A&R Solar was founded in 2007 and has grown into one of the Northwest's most successful installers of solar, energy storage, and electric vehicle charging. We are an employee-owned B-corporation and Social Purpose Corporation with a team of 75. We have installed more than 75,000 solar panels across Oregon and Washington.

Our customers come from all walks of life and are proud to own their power. They include homeowners, businesses, schools, tribal communities, nonprofit food banks, local fire stations, and more. Clean, renewable energy is good for our economy, our environment, and our health.

Oregon successfully built jobs in clean energy for many decades. Until the end of 2017, the previous state incentive for solar offered an important opportunity for homeowners to save on their electricity bills, and for our state to lead on the carbon-saving technologies of the future. But when the program ended abruptly, our state lost a valuable tool for growing solar right here in Oregon.

Since then, it has proven extremely difficult to do business in Oregon, let alone grow our company. While customer interest in solar remains high, customers need to trust the state's "rules of the road." So instead of installing clean for Oregon-based customers, we've had to shift much of our Oregon-based crews to work in southern Washington, where regulatory certainty makes it a smarter investment for us for now.

We support HB 2618 so that people in every corner of Oregon can enjoy solar's savings, take pride in climate action, and build our state's clean-energy economy. The bill would create a six-year rebate to support low- and middle-income homeowners, businesses and apartment buildings to own their power. And improving upon the old program, the new opportunity will be open to customers in any utility district, and will also incorporate battery storage, improving Oregon's emergency preparedness.

Thank you for supporting HB 2618.

Bonnie Frye Hemphill
Policy & Partnerships Director | A&R Solar