



February 26, 2019

Oregon House Energy and Environment Committee  
via email: [hee.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:hee.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov)  
re: HB 2618

Dear Representatives,

The Oregon Clean Power Cooperative is a member-owned cooperative which finances solar projects for schools, libraries, nonprofits, churches and local governments throughout Oregon. We urge you to support HB 2618, for the following reasons:

1) It is extremely difficult to finance the community-based projects that we do, and we have a significant backlog of organizations that would like to install solar panels. To pay back our community investors in a reasonable timeframe – 10 to 15 years – requires additional sources of financing. There is not enough grant funding to cover all the organizations that would like to get solar, and the Energy Trust of Oregon incentives, while helpful, are not sufficient by themselves.

Combining HB 2618 funding with our community investment and other sources of financing would allow us to finance significantly more solar projects.

2) Energy Trust of Oregon incentives are limited to Pacific Power, Idaho Power and PGE territory, and we have not been able to do any projects for the roughly one third of Oregonians who get their power from PUDs, munis or rural electric co-ops. HB 2618 funding would provide the additional boost required for us to do projects outside of the investor-owned utility territories.

3) Although there are federal tax credits for solar, it is extremely difficult to take advantage of them for projects in our size range. While we have found a few investors able to take the tax credits for some of our projects, the decrease in the federal tax credits at the end of this year will make that much harder. The additional financing from HB 2618 could have a major impact in offsetting that decline.

4) Solar and battery systems can provide vital sources of power to communities struggling in the wake of natural disasters such as the Cascadia earthquake. (For details on how this worked in Hurricane Sandy, Hurricane Irma and the 2017 Sonoma County wildfires, please see *When the Grid Goes Down*, here: <http://oregoncleanpower.coop/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Storage-White-Paper.pdf>).



We recently installed our first solar + battery system, at the Rogue Valley Council of Governments in Central Point, and would like to install batteries at many more sites. While battery prices are coming down, however, they are still too expensive to install widely.

A small amount of additional funding such as that provided by HB 2618 would allow us to deploy batteries much more frequently. For projects where we're able to include a small amount of battery storage, such as one we're working on right now for a fire station in Jackson County, HB 2618 funding would allow us to more than double the size of the battery system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Orzech". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the "z".

Dan Orzech  
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