



**Climate Solutions**  
PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS TO GLOBAL WARMING

February 28, 2019

Representative Ken Helm, Chair  
House Committee on Energy and Environment  
Oregon State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301

**Re: HB 2618**

Chair Helm and Members of the Committee,

We write in support of **HB 2618**. We strongly support development of a robust solar rooftop and storage market in Oregon and the benefits these distributed on-grid systems provide to the electrical grid and off-grid systems (solar plus storage) provide in creating more resilient neighborhoods and communities in the event of electricity disruptions and emergencies. Unfortunately, with the recent loss of Oregon incentives for solar installations, the rooftop solar market has taken a nose dive and without the new grant funding provided in this legislation will likely continue to decline over the next few years.

Climate Solutions is a regional non-profit working to accelerate practical and profitable solutions to global warming. For more than 15 years, Climate Solutions has been working to implement energy efficiency, renewable energy, and carbon reduction policies that demonstrate that clean energy and broadly shared economic prosperity go hand-in-hand.

**HB 2618** is carefully calibrated to provide an Oregon grant based (not tax credit based) incentive for rooftop solar installations. While larger, utility scale ground mounted solar systems are now cost competitive with other forms of electricity generation, smaller rooftop systems still cost more per kilowatt to install based on scale and a more challenging installation environment. HB 2618 would bridge the market divide for rooftop installation over the next four years and then sunset. The hope is that rooftop solar installations will continue to decline in cost and no longer need a state incentive after four years. Unlike our clean energy neighbors to the north and south, Oregon alone currently provides no state-based incentive for rooftop solar. We need to change that imbalance in the market. HB 2618 would also provide significant benefit to solar installations in rural Oregon where the Energy Trust of Oregon does not operate. Oregon can't afford to see the rooftop solar installers leave the state or turn to other forms of work. We need to keep a vibrant solar rooftop market and the solar technicians that have the expertise to install the rooftop systems.

We urge you to support **HB 2618**. Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Van't Hof', with a stylized, wavy line for the surname.

David Van't Hof Policy Consultant, Climate Solutions