February 28, 2019

Chair Helm and Members of the House Energy & Environment Committee

Oregon State Capitol Salem, OR 97301

Re: HB 2618

Dear Chair Helm and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the NW Energy Coalition, I am writing to express our support for HB 2618, which will provide rebates to encourage the installation of distributed solar systems for homeowners and businesses throughout Oregon.

The NW Energy Coalition is an alliance of about 100 environmental, civic and human service organizations, progressive utilities and businesses in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana and British Columbia. We promote development of renewable energy and energy conservation, consumer protection, low-income energy assistance, and fish and wildlife restoration on the Columbia and Snake rivers.

In addition to the generation of clean energy, which saves electric system investments in large fossil fuel generating plants and the carbon emissions that go along with them, distributed solar provides numerous other benefits to the state. Among those benefits are better resiliency to Oregon households and businesses in the event of storms and other
natural disasters and clean energy jobs and related economic development. We need to aggressively pursue all forms of clean energy generation to meet our societal goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other pollutants. HB 2618 will reinvigorate the small-scale solar industry, which has diminished somewhat over the last year or so, to bring the above stated benefits to Oregonians. We urge you to support HB 2618.

Sincerely,

Wendy Gerlitz
Policy Director