



April 2, 2019

House Committee on Energy and the Environment
Chair Ken Helm
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Helm, Vice-Chairs Schouten and Reschke, 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 supports HB 2322 to require the Department of Land Conservation and Development to update Goal 13 through rulemaking. Goal 13 is out-of-date; it was written before renewable energy played a substantive role in Oregon's energy generation and so the goal does not accurately reflect today's focus on energy generation in addition to energy conservation. Renewable energy generation plays an important part of many Oregon policies – including the Renewable Portfolio Standard, Community Solar, and the draft cap and invest program – and should be recognized in Oregon's land-use goals.

In particular, OSEIA supports the inclusion of community solar as an important consideration in the re-drafting of Goal 13. Community solar is a brand new program created by the Legislature in 2016 that is just now being launched in PGE and Pacific Power territory. Community solar was created in order to make renewable energy more accessible for everyone, including those whose roofs have too much shade and people that cannot afford an entire system themselves. Community solar projects are required to be located in the service territory they are connected to, making it tricky to find locations that will allow projects to pencil out financially. Updating Goal 13 is critical to ensure that community solar can be implemented as the Legislature intended.

OSEIA urges this committee's support of HB 2322.

Angela Crowley-Koch
Executive Director
Oregon Solar Energy Industries Association (OSEIA)