



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 3157 to include alternative energy generation in Oregon's building code. Oregon is the right place to take this step; not only is Oregon poised to adopt a new statewide policy to reduce carbon emissions, but Oregon is also woefully underprepared for natural disasters and HB 3157 would help get Oregon on the right track.

As we saw after the recent storm in Southern Oregon which left thousands without power for weeks, Oregon is not prepared for a natural disaster. Requiring alternative energy generation on homes, especially when paired with battery back-up systems, will make Oregonians better prepared when the Big One hits. Oregonians should think of solar with battery back-up as a standard emergency preparedness measure for homeowners.

In addition, HB 3157 pairs nicely with HB 2618, which creates a rebate program for solar and battery storage. This rebate program will provide financial help for Oregonians to meet the new requirement laid out in HB 3157. Federal assistance is also available through the Investment Tax Credit and 2019 is the last year homeowners can take advantage of the full 30% tax credit, which starts ramping down in 2020, making this year an excellent year to pass this legislation.

OSEIA urges strong support for HB 3157.

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