



House Committee on Energy and the Environment
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem Oregon 97301

February 3, 2020

Dear Chair Power 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 urges your support of HB 4067. This bill represents years of conversations between stakeholders in order to ensure that low-income Oregonians have a fair electricity rate and a seat at the table during Public Utility Commission (PUC) conversations.

HB 4067 allows the PUC to create differentiated rates in order to reduce the energy burden for Oregonians who are struggling. This is a critical step to ensure that every Oregonians can keep the heat and lights on during the winter without sacrificing food or medicine.

In addition, HB 4067 allows participation from a wider group of stakeholders in important PUC proceedings by allowing intervener funds to be used by community groups. Participating in the PUC process is expensive, time-consuming and requires legal and technical support. This is a challenge even for industry groups like OSEIA; it is an even bigger challenge for organizations representing low-income communities.

HB 4067 represents two small but significant improvements to interaction of low-income customers to the PUC and is critical for the most vulnerable among us. OSEIA strongly urges support of HB 4067 and the -1 amendment.