



Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem Oregon 97301

February 4, 2020

Dear Chairs Dembrow and members of the committee,

Thank you for the invitation to testify today. My name is James Reismiller, I'm the owner of Abundant Solar, a small solar company in Corvallis Oregon. We install solar on homes and businesses in the mid-Willamette Valley region. I'm also on the board of the Oregon Solar Energy Industries Association (OSEIA). 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 SB 1530 and we request that the bill be strengthened. The Oregon Greenhouse Gas Initiative has enormous potential to create clean energy jobs in Oregon and the solar industry is ready to create those skilled jobs. There are solar projects in all 36 Oregon counties, ranging from small residential projects that help reduce homeowners' energy bills to large utility-scale projects that are thousands of acres and reduce Oregon's reliance on fossil fuel energy.

The proceeds from this program create a great opportunity to establish new solar jobs. The solar industry employs manufacturers, designers, planners, materials handlers, installers, electricians, and sales teams in order to complete a project. The proceeds will create new employment opportunities in every corner of the state, for people with all education levels and backgrounds. Working in the solar industry is an excellent opportunity for impacted communities and OSEIA is committed to developing a strong and diverse workforce. For a small business like mine, this program creates the certainty the our company needs to hire and retain skilled workers and provide reliable, affordable service to our customers.

In particular, the Oregon Greenhouse Gas Initiative can help get community solar projects off the ground. Not everyone can have solar on their roof but a community solar project allows everyone in the community, including low-income ratepayers, to enjoy the benefits of solar. When coupled with



battery storage, solar projects contribute to Oregon's energy self-sufficiency and disaster recovery infrastructure. The proceeds from this program can help make those projects pencil out.

One area we ask you to strengthen the bill is the Climate Investment Fund and the proceeds going into the fund. Every industry that is given an exemption or an extension means fewer proceeds in the Fund, which means fewer funds available for clean energy projects like solar. We fear that the near-exemptions for natural gas users in the original bill will mean significantly fewer dollars for the Climate Investment Fund and we ask you to strengthen those provisions.

Solar has been generating carbon-free and pollution-free energy in Oregon for decades. This innovative and forward-looking policy will both reduce pollution and create jobs, a win-win for Oregonians. OSEIA urges you to strengthen and support SB 1530.

Thank you for taking this testimony into consideration.

Sincerely,
James Reismiller

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James Reismiller".

Owner, Abundant Solar LLC
Board Member OSEIA

Corvallis, OR