

Joint Committee on Ways and Means subcommittee on Natural Resources  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem Oregon 97301

March 3, 2021

Dear Co-chairs Taylor and Reardon, and members of the committee,

We write to you to express support for the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) Policy Option Package to fund the Solar + Storage Rebate program with \$3 million in new funding for the next biennium.

The Solar + Storage Rebate is a quadruple win for Oregon: it keeps Oregonians employed during tough economic times, saves ratepayers money on their electricity bills, increases resiliency and reduces climate pollution. An investment from this committee will go a long way towards helping Oregonians around the state.

In 2020, almost 450 solar and storage rebates supported projects in 23 counties. Over half of the funds went to low- or moderate-income households or low-income service providers, expanding access to solar to those who couldn't afford it without financial support. Everyone deserves the opportunity to produce their own clean energy and the Solar + Storage Rebate made that possible.

The last seven months have seen multiple power outages across the state. As wildfires and extreme weather events increase, solar paired with storage provides a clean alternative to keeping the lights on during emergencies. The rebate is the first clean storage incentive in Oregon and should be extended to allow more Oregonians to be ready for the next emergency.

We urge you to support additional funding for the Solar + Storage Rebate Program at ODOE.

Sincerely,

Meredith Connolly  
Oregon Director  
Climate Solutions

Celeste Meiffren-Swango  
State Director  
Environment Oregon

Nora Apter  
Climate Program Director  
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