



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,

The Oregon Solar + Storage Industries Association (OSSIA) is a trade association founded in 1981 to promote clean, renewable, solar technologies. OSSIA 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 and storage projects on the local, state and regional level.

OSSIA urges this committee to support the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) Policy Option Package (POP) to provide \$3 million in additional funding for the Solar + Storage Rebate program. The Oregon Legislature created the program in 2019 with overwhelming bi-partisan support and funded the program at \$2 million for the biennium. ODOE invested \$500,000 of those funds to start up the program, investing in software and staff to kick off the program, leaving \$1.5 million for actual rebates. We ask that you build on the investment made last biennium and continue to fund this important program.

The program has been a huge success, with demand far outstripping supply. In fact, the second tranche of rebates for non-income restricted projects was fully reserved within 30 minutes of being released last April. Almost 450 projects were funded in 23 counties around the state and over half of funds were spent on low-income service providers or low- and moderate-income households, more than doubling the amount set aside for income-restricted projects.

The rebate also created parity in solar incentives for ratepayers around the state. After the previous state incentive ended in 2017, customers outside of PGE or Pacific Power territory have not had access to state-based incentives for solar. The Solar + Storage Rebate Program included a higher incentive rate for those customers without access to other state incentives, creating a more level playing field. This means that while Rep. Pham had six projects funded in her district and Rep. Brock Smith had seven projects in his district, Rep. Brock Smith's constituents received almost \$50,000 in incentives and Rep. Pham's constituents received around \$7,000, since Rep. Pham's constituents also received Energy Trust of Oregon incentives. A total of 96 project are moving forward that otherwise would receive no financial support, providing those outside of urban areas with increased access to solar.

PO Box 14927, Portland, OR 97293-0927

Email: angela@oseia.org

www.orssia.org



The program is the first state incentive that supports clean energy storage, therefore providing resiliency benefits. If a solar system is not paired with battery storage, the solar cannot provide electricity during an outage; it is connected to the grid and must discontinue generating power to protect workers restoring the grid. However, if solar is paired with battery storage, that home or low-income service provider receives power from the battery system, which was charged during the day by the solar system. The ability to have power during an outage provides our communities with resilience and makes us more prepared for emergencies. For example, in the January storms, OSSIA's staff's home in Milwaukie provided limited power to four homes from his solar + storage system (not funded through the Rebate program). Through the Rebate program, a solar + storage system in Springfield helped the home get through the outage caused by the Holiday farm fire. The rebates were fully subscribed before the first outages of 2020 began; customer demand for storage after the wildfires and ice storms is at an all-time high in Oregon and additional funding for the rebate program will see an increase in storage projects.

Projects funded by the Solar + Storage Rebate in committee members' districts:

District	# Projects	Total Eligible Rebates	Final System Costs
SD 21	15	\$29,605	\$327,252
HD 48	5	\$9,956	\$100,754
SD 5	11	\$33,650	\$382,811
SD 22	24	\$85,578	\$583,842
HD 55	12	\$43,099	\$556,805
HD 8	12	\$34,138	\$381,252
HD 46	6	\$7,383	\$136,337
HD 1	7	\$49,247	\$297,303

For full details on all projects that received rebates, please refer to [ODOE's September 2020 report](#) to the legislature.

The Solar + Storage Rebate has been a huge success. Funding the program for the next biennium will allow customers to save money, keep the lights on during future outages, and produce their own clean energy. In addition, the program supports an industry made up of small businesses that employ Oregonians throughout this economic crisis. We ask for your support in funding the program for the next biennium.

Sincerely,

Angela Crowley-Koch
Executive Director

PO Box 14927, Portland, OR 97293-0927

Email: angela@oseia.org

www.orssia.org