



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

March 29, 2021

Dear Chair Marsh, 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 supports HB 2520 which will update Oregon's land-use goal 13 to better reflect Oregon's climate and economic development goals for renewable energy.

Oregon's land use laws were created decades ago before we had the advanced renewable energy technology that we do today. While "energy conservation" is a technology specifically mentioned in the existing land use goals, renewable energy generation was not mentioned when the goals were drafted in the 1970's. We now know of the benefits that renewable energy projects bring to Oregon: well-paid jobs for Oregonians, property tax benefits and indirect economic development benefits in the communities where projects are located, and climate benefits of clean energy generation replacing fossil fuels.

HB 2520 would update the land use goals to provide much needed clarity for communities wanting to site renewable energy projects, to help determine the best places for projects to be built. Unfortunately, if this bill does not move forward there will continue to be confusion as the renewable energy industry, the Department for Land Conservation and Development, and counties try to balance varying land uses and determine the best places for these important projects. More clarity will mean more projects built in the right places, which means more jobs and revenue for rural Oregon.

Sincerely,

Angela Crowley-Koch
Executive Director