

Premier Solar NW  
12399 NW Waker Drive Portland OR 97229

Good afternoon Representative Bonamici,

My name is Anna Kemper. I'm writing in today on behalf of Premier Solar NW, a local solar installation company based in Washington County. Our employees live across the Metro region and we have been in business since 2011. As of this year, we've installed over 100 projects in District 1, and as solar becomes more of a viable option for Oregonians we expect to install hundreds more.

Like most small businesses, COVID-19 impacted us in 2020. When the pandemic first hit, we lost jobs as homeowners faced job loss and were unable to invest in their home at the time. Investing in solar is investing in the future of our state. As solar continues to spread across the state as a more affordable, more sustainable option for energy, it becomes a valuable industry to invest in. When we invest in solar, we invest in our communities: local, small businesses that will invest revenue back into our state.

Last Fall, Oregonians were faced with the very real reality of the climate crisis, as wildfires ravaged the state. Some lost their homes, while others were lucky to only have their cities blanketed with smoke for weeks. The climate crisis is here, but fortunately, we have some excellent tools in our toolbox as a state to help mitigate the impact. One of those tools is residential solar, and the Solar Plus Storage rebate made this solution even more accessible for many Oregonians.

I urge you to vote in favor of funding the \$3 million for the Solar Plus Storage rebate program as requested by ODOE. This program is essential to sustaining the Oregon solar industry. In 2019, when the WSU program ran out of funding earlier than anyone expected, it hurt the industry in that state.

Sustaining the Oregon solar industry is essential to resiliency as we as a state work to bounce back from the economic impacts of the COVID-19 crisis. On top of that, it's important for Oregon homeowners and businesses to have access to solar as a way to prepare for future environmental disasters. On top of funding the Solar Plus Storage program, we should be funding projects, like the ODOE grant program, that prepare our state for resiliency. We must prepare our state to be proactive, not reactive to the issues ahead.

When more Oregonians are able to afford solar, it makes our state all the more prepared for future disaster, it helps our economy rebound after the pandemic, while at the same time doing an important part in transitioning our state to a renewable energy economy.

Thank you,  
Anna on behalf of Premier Solar NW