

Cascade Coast Construction and Solar

123 Nw. Hurbert, Newport, Or

CCB: 168842

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,

Cascade Coast Construction and Solar is an Oregon small business based in Newport. We have 3 employees and install solar in the central Oregon coast. We work with local business and residents to create resilient communities using solar to cut down on electrical bills and provide back up during a power outages. 100% of our systems have some sort of back up power potential during an outage. We have worked with the Siletz Tribe, local co-ops and over 50 residential systems. There is several off grid sites that we have installed that can operate independent of any power grid. Most systems are grid tied with a SMA inverter that gives secure power supply during a power outage.

We participated in the Solar + Storage rebate program in 2020 and strongly encourage this committee to renew funding for this important jobs and energy resilience program. The projects supported by the rebate program helped keep our business going and our employees working during a time of severe economic uncertainty. This helped us get through the tough times solar has had ever since the State tax credit has expired. We saw almost a 80% drop in solar sales after the sunseting of the tax credit.

Cascade Coast Construction and Solar completed 5 projects around the state, here are a few examples:

- A home in Yachats, Oregon This system was a **Low- and Moderate-Income Households incentive** that will allow the home to have Secure power Supply from their SMA inverter. The system is a roof mounted solar system with Silfab panels. This system produces about 40% of the energy used at this home. This is essential to help out the retired folks out in the Central Coast. Most families here are older and are struggling with energy bills. This incentive not only keeps electricity bills down but creates a group of older citizens that can educated others about the benefits of solar energy.
- A home in Gleneden Beach, Oregon This is a 6KW roof mounted solar system located right on the beach. It has the SMA inverter with the secure power supply. This system is the residents way of reducing their carbon foot print from dirty energy from Pacific Power.
- A home in Newport, Oregon This is an off grid system. This system utilizes the Blue Ion 2.0 Battery 6KW of solar and a generator back up. This system has a ground mounted array. It is located beyond the reach of Central Lincoln PUD power grid. This is a model system for resiliency here in Oregon. This system produces enough power for the residence 24 a day 365 days a year.
- A home in Springfield, Oregon. This home installed a hybrid grid tied solar system with battery storage. This complete system supplied them with power during last fall's forest fires, while their neighbors had outages. This system utilizes the Blue Ion 2.0 battery with 16KWH of storage. When the fires came they had to evacuate with little warning. This system kept the refrigerators and two freezers working during the power outage. When the clients came back to the house the power was still out. They were able to live there until the power was restored. This also powered the pump system that supplied them with water during the fire and outage. The benefit of the battery is that they did not have to set up a generator or other back up system. The entire system is made to run automatically and controls the loads and battery charging from the solar.

Cascade Coast Construction and Solar strongly supports the Oregon Department of Energy's request for \$3 million to re-fund the Solar+Storage rebate program. The first year of the program, only \$1.5 million was available for rebate, and that amount was fully requested in the first six months of the program. Without this rebate several of these projects would not have been possible. I do really recommend having the added money for the battery back up systems. Solar with battery back up does not only work but creates little islands of resiliency that will be essential in Oregon during the Cascadia earthquake event.

We would like to continue helping our customers go solar and save money on their energy bills, as well as keeping our employees working through the pandemic.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rio Davidson

President

Cascade Coast Construction and Solar

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