



OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

April 4, 2023

Colleagues,

RE: House Bill 3055, Solar Eligibility Caps

HB 3055A supports farmers, landowners and small businesses compete with large businesses when building small utility scale solar projects (under 10 MW) by raising the “avoided cost” rate cap. The bill allows for battery storage to be paired with solar projects under 10 MW and still receive standard contract rates. This bill has support from the three companies listed below my signature.

Raising the Solar Avoided Cost Rate Cap:

In 2005, the Oregon Public Utility Commission (PUC) set the “avoided cost” rate cap for solar and wind qualifying facilities at 10 MW. Then in 2016, during a boom period for small solar projects, the PUC lowered the threshold for solar facilities down to 3 MW. Overtime the solar market has undergone significant evolution and now the market has shifted to promote very large projects to meet renewable energy goals.

This bill is aimed to spur new small-scale solar development. Aligning the solar eligibility cap with the current wind eligibility cap puts the two renewable resources on a level playing field,

Adding Storage Capabilities to Solar Projects Standard Contracts:

The other piece to HB 3055 permits an energy storage system, like a battery, to be paired with a small solar power production facility and still qualify for a standard contract, which does not exist now. Storage paired with wind and solar can provide more consistency and balance to the grid, not just when the wind is blowing or sun is shining.

Both components of this legislation will help the development of small renewable energy projects which return 3-5 times more to the local communities than the larger scale renewable energy projects, according to studies done by Oregon State University, the National Renewable Energy Laboratory and the Department of Energy.

Please vote “yes” on HB 3055A.



Sincerely,

