



March 28, 2023

Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water  
Oregon House of Representatives  
900 Court Street, NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: Testimony, HB 3180-2

Dear Chairman Helm, Vice-Chair Owens, Vice-Chair Hartman and members of the House of Representatives Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water:

Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA) is dedicated to protecting, defending and restoring Oregon's high desert on behalf of our 14,000 members and supporters. Although we are focused on management and conservation of federal public lands in central and eastern Oregon, we are also involved in related planning and policymaking on non-federal land when there is an important conservation nexus and, in the case of renewable energy development, an opportunity to support renewables and address impacts from climate change.

ONDA supports the development and implementation of thoughtful, balanced policies and programs that accelerate renewable energy development in Oregon to help achieve the state's renewable energy goals. We have appreciated the opportunity to be involved in discussions regarding HB 3180 and support the goal of allowing solar energy development on existing agricultural parcels in eastern Oregon in instances where agricultural productivity is limited by water availability.

High desert ecosystems and communities would benefit from policies that may help reduce demand on limited and declining water resources, focus development pressure to land that has already been converted to agricultural and other uses and, when taken together with other important factors like proximity to transmission, support the orderly development of renewable energy facilities.

These are valid concepts and we support their continued exploration and refinement as HB 3180-2 and other related proposals progress through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ryan Houston".

Ryan Houston  
Executive Director