



February 7, 2024

Chair Marsh  
House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment  
Oregon State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301

**Re: Support for HB 4015**

Chair Marsh and Members of the Committee,

As Oregon embarks on a clean energy transition, we will require a host of technologies to assist us. In particular, we will need to quickly scale up battery storage. HB 4015 provides much needed flexibility for siting stand alone Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) - those that are not directly connected to a renewable energy generating facility.

**We strongly support this measure.** Climate Solutions is a regional non-profit working to accelerate clean energy solutions to the climate crisis.

BESS is important for several reasons, and the flexibility afforded by this measure will remove an obstacle to siting stand alone BESS facilities. Battery Energy Storage Systems collect energy from the electric grid or a generating resource, such as a wind or solar plant, and then discharge that energy at a later time to provide electricity or other grid services when needed to serve load. Renewable energy is considered non-dispatchable, meaning wind and solar cannot be generated on demand like fossil fuel power. Therefore, these battery resources will be essential for integrating renewable energy into the grid.

The benefits of BESS include:

- Increasing resilience on the electricity grid
- Protecting against energy blackouts
- Enabling a more local, or distributed, approach to electricity supply
- Decreasing reliance on long-range energy transmission

EFSC maintains authority to issue site certificates only for BESS that is connected to a generating facility. The minor statutory change afforded by HB 4015 would give EFSC authority to issue site certificates for stand alone BESS. A developer or county government could opt to shift permitting of BESS to EFSC. This change will give both renewable energy developers and county governments flexibility in the siting process.

For these reasons, we urge your support for HB 4015.

Sincerely,

*Joshua Basofin*

Joshua Basofin  
Clean Energy Policy Manager  
Climate Solutions