



**February 13, 2024**

**House Committee on Agriculture etc.**

**Support for HB 4090-4 - Mike McArthur, Executive Director: CREA**

**Chair Helm, Vice Chairs Hartman and Owens;**

Please accept this testimony as support for HB 4090 with the - 4 amendment.

The Community Renewable Energy Association (CREA) is an ORS 190 intergovernmental association. Members include counties, irrigation districts, project developers, for-profit businesses and non-profit organizations. CREA supports business and economic opportunities through renewable energy development in a competitive environment. We support use of free enterprise principles to create economically and environmentally responsible electric generation within the State of Oregon.

We represent most of the counties in Oregon with largest likelihood of renewable energy development on federal lands. We initially had reservations about the role counties will play in the siting process if EFSC was not a permitting authority for the project. Local Governments have a "Special Advisory" role with the EFSC process. We worked with the proponents and AOC to develop the -4 amendment which enables CREA to support the bill.

If we are to achieve the state's decarbonization goals anywhere near the timeline set forth in HB 2021 there will need to be acceleration and simplification of the siting processes. This may mean that there are trade offs to be accepted. We believe this trade off is acceptable.

