



Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem Oregon 97301

February 4, 2025

Chair Sollman, Vice-chair Brock Smith and members of the committee,

The Oregon Solar + Storage Industries Association (OSSIA) is a trade association founded in 1981 to promote clean, renewable, solar technologies. OSSIA members include businesses, non-profit groups, and other solar and storage industry stakeholders. We provide a unified voice of the solar industry and focus exclusively on the solar and storage value chains; from workforce development to permitting, advocacy, policy, and regulation for manufacturing, residential, commercial, community, and utility scale solar and storage projects on the local, state, and regional level.

OSSIA urges this committee to pass SB 872 to support the Solar + Storage Rebate program. The Oregon Legislature created the program in 2019 with overwhelming bi-partisan support and it has been extremely successful. The rebate has been used for projects in 34 out of 36 counties, in some cases providing incentives to Oregonians who aren't eligible for any other type of state or federal incentives. As an industry, we're proud that over 39% of rebate funds have benefited low- and moderate-income ratepayers, expanding access to clean energy across the state.

We ask that you **build on the investment** made in the last two biennia and continue this important program. SB 827 makes an important change – it allows battery storage added to a previously installed solar system to be eligible for a rebate. This is important to increase the adoption of storage and therefore the resilience of our communities during a power outage.

Solar will not keep your lights on during an outage unless you also have battery storage. While the cost of solar has come down quite a bit, the cost of storage is still high. It is difficult to purchase both solar and storage at the same time; this policy change will help those with solar to overcome financial hurdles to add battery backup.

The Solar + Storage Rebate program has been a huge success, with demand far outstripping supply. The rebates are especially critical for low and moderate-income ratepayers, who



have difficulty paying the upfront costs for solar and may not be able to take advantage of federal tax credits, which are not currently refundable.

The rebate also created parity in solar incentives for ratepayers around the state. After the previous state incentive ended in 2017, customers outside of PGE or Pacific Power territory have not had access to state-based incentives for solar. The Solar + Storage Rebate Program included a higher incentive rate for those customers without access to other state incentives, creating a more level playing field.

2025 is a critical year for this program and needs additional funding to restart. With federal incentives being uncertain, legislative funding for the Solar + Storage Rebate program will be extremely important to customers around Oregon, who want to save money on their bills and be energy independent, and for Oregon's solar companies, who create Oregon jobs. OSSIA is asking for \$10 million in new rebate funding to restart the program.

The Solar + Storage Rebate has been a huge success. Extending and funding the program will allow customers to save money, keep the lights on during future outages, and produce their own clean energy. The program provides critical support to an industry made up of small businesses employing Oregonians around the state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Angela Crowley-Koch". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Angela Crowley-Koch
Executive Director