



Chair Lively and members of the Committee:

My name is Tristan Kuenzi, Director of sales and operations for Earthlight Technologies. We are a family owned and operated solar contractor, servicing most of Oregon with offices in Silverton and Redmond. Earthlight started in 2016 with one employee. We have since grown to Almost 30 employees and counting. Earthlight Technologies has focused mostly on residential solar but slowly building a strong commercial sector as well. The Oregon Solar Plus Storage Rebate Program has been a big boost for our business' growing goals. Before funding ran out last year, this Rebate Program allowed us to make solar a reality for over 390 customers. This number includes more than 100 low-income families who would not have otherwise been able to afford to go solar. This rebate program also allowed Energy Storage to be added to 53 homes. Earthlight has also been awarded community projects which cater to low-income Oregonians. Some examples include a 30kW project for Sunny Slope Manor Apartment Complex, here in Salem. Another is a 25kW project for Bienestar, Inc in Hillsboro. This organization builds housing, hope, and a sense of community for immigrant farm workers in Washington County. These projects would not have been feasible without the assistance of the Oregon Solar and Storage Rebate Program.

SB 827 would allow all these customers that have previously been installed with just solar to be able to afford battery storage to become more sustainable in our ever-changing climate. We have many customers here in the Willamette valley that would like to add batteries to their existing solar systems so there homes would be more sustainable in the event of a power outage or natural disaster.

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Please refund the Solar + Storage rebate program by giving it another \$10 million. It was difficult for our customers and our business, when funds ran out last year. We had 12 jobs between Eugene and Wilsonville we had to cancel when the funding ran out last year because without it the could no longer afford the cost. I ask you to allow the solar industry to help Oregon families who can't afford the recent utility rate hikes to have an alternative solution

Lastly, from a business standpoint, the lack of funding made budgeting difficult to be able to sustain the backbone of our company, the employees. We ask for your help in voting to support SB827 which also supports every solar company in Oregon who strives for a brighter economic future!

Sincerely,

Tristan Kuenzi
Director of Sales and Operations



earthlight
solar & energy solutions

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