



House Committee on Climate, Energy and the Environment  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem Oregon 97301

February 4, 2025

Dear Chair Lively, Vice-chairs Gamba and Levy, 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 HB 2064 to clarify how microgrids can operate in an emergency. As Oregon continues to see more frequent power outages of longer duration, it is critical that communities can keep the power on in an emergency. While Oregon's utilities work as quickly as they can to restore power, communities need emergency responders and other critical infrastructure to have the lights on, even when the grid goes out.

HB 2064 also asks for clear guidance on building codes and zoning rules to ensure that microgrids can be developed in as streamlined a way as possible. Clear rules help the solar industry – solar contractors are experienced in designing and developing microgrids where solar both powers facilities and also charges batteries to keep the lights on at night. With clear guidance from the Public Utility Commission, Building Codes Division, and cities and counties, the solar industry can get to work to make Oregon communities more resilient and energy independent.

OSSIA urges this committee to support HB 2064 to allow for clarity regarding microgrid operations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Angela Crowley-Koch".

Angela Crowley-Koch  
Executive Director