



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 2065, to expedite the process of interconnecting microgrids. Nearly every renewable project that is connected to the grid needs to have an interconnection study, which reviews the grid capacity in the location of the new project. Interconnection studies are important to ensure that the new project doesn't overload the existing grid technology, potentially damaging equipment. PGE and PacifiCorp regularly contract out the work of studying interconnection to third parties. This may especially be true for projects like microgrids, that are bigger and more complicated than other types of renewable projects.

HB 2065 allows for two new processes that will get more microgrids built faster. First, the bill allows the project developer to choose whether the utility or a third party will conduct the interconnection study. Working directly with third party engineering firms – instead of having the same engineering firm, but with the added layer of utility process – saves time and money for the project and the ratepayers. Microgrid developers most likely will use the exact same engineering firms that utilities themselves use and utilities would have final review and approval of any study conducted by a third party. However, if a project developer can go straight to the engineering firm, that project can move to the top of the list for review, rather than waiting behind other items the utility may be studying with their in-house staff. This ultimately saves the ratepayers time and money.

HB 2065 also states that a study with a professional engineer stamp shall be considered the final report. Professional engineers sign their studies and designs with an official stamp that includes their name and certificate number. OSSIA believes that if utility studies included an engineering stamp, studies would be more thoroughly completed the first time. Currently, project developers often need to hire their own engineer to refute studies that have mistakes. Even when mistakes are corrected, the costs of




time and money due to project delays are difficult to recover. Requiring an engineering stamp brings more certainty to projects and will decrease delays.

In short, engineering stamps and third party engineering studies will lead to cost savings for ratepayers and fast development times for microgrids. Oregon should cut all red tape that prevents lifesaving electricity restoration to communities during a power outage.

Sincerely,

Angela Crowley-Koch  
Executive Director

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