



Chair Solman and Committee Members,

Unite Oregon supports SB 92 and the -2 amendment, which seeks to provide some definition, clarity, and certainty for the Oregon Community Solar Program and also extends the program.

Unite Oregon is led by people of color, immigrants and refugees, rural communities, and people experiencing poverty. We work across Oregon to build a unified intercultural movement for justice. We are a movement of over 5,000 members across the state and are engaged in climate and environmental justice issues that are foremost in our communities.

Because these communities have been historically and systematically ignored. Today I am representing my community and highlighting the importance of moving towards having sustainable solar programs through this bill. To reduce environmental impacts to Indigenous and BIPOC communities by developing solar program infrastructures. Developing solar energy protections and lower energy bills projects that will mitigate utility prices and extreme weather impacts on these communities.

SB 92-2, will empower Oregon with real energy independence all while delivering more choices, more competition, cost stability to all ratepayers, and more opportunity for everyone.

Community solar is an energy solution that empowers anyone with an electric bill to choose affordable, locally generated solar power without needing to install a system on site. Each project has multiple subscribers who buy the energy and receive a credit on their electricity bill for their portion of power produced. It gives citizens and businesses the choice to participate and does not require state funding or state subsidies.

We understand the community solar program passed by the legislature in 2016 will soon need to stop accepting applications, with no immediate plans to expand or continue the program. Compared to other state's community solar programs, Oregon barely registers on the national map with its caps on project and program size. This legislation will increase those caps set by the Public Utility Commission and fulfill the legislative intent from 2016 of creating a workable and sustainable program.

Why we support community solar:

- Community solar provides a choice for Oregon residents to advance renewable energy, even if they are renters or are experiencing low-incomes. It's the only way that low-income ratepayers can receive 100% clean energy at a discount, just like a homeowner with solar would.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration on how to provide Oregonians the certainty that they can invest in and benefit from community solar into the future.

Regards,

Metzin Rodriguez  
Climate and Environmental Justice Policy Lead Coordinator  
Unite Oregon