



Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem Oregon 97301

April 15, 2025

Dear Co-chairs Lieber and Sanchez, and members of the committee,

My name is Abygale Jaeger, Program Manager at Solar Oregon. Solar Oregon is a 501(c)3 nonprofit that has worked to increase solar adoption in Oregon through education and advocacy since 1979.

The Oregon Solar Plus Storage Rebate Program has been a big boost for increasing residential solar adoption throughout Oregon. Before funding ran out last year, this Rebate Program helped to make residential solar accessible to more families. This rebate program also allowed battery backup storage to be added to many homes increasing community energy resilience across the state.

Please refund the Solar + Storage rebate program by including \$20 million for this program in the Oregon Department of Energy's base budget. It was difficult for our customers and our business, when funds ran out last year. We had multiple people tell us that they could no longer afford the cost of a solar or battery system. 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 organization, the employees. Please support robust funding for the Solar and Storage Rebate program.

Sincerely,
Abygale Jaeger
Program Manager, Solar Oregon