



SOLAR DESIGN & INSTALLATION

6800 NE 59th Place  
Portland OR 97218

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

April 14, 2025

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

My name is Katie Martin, Construction Manager for Elemental Energy. We are a locally owned and operated solar contractor, servicing most of Oregon with our headquarters located in Portland. Elemental started in 2011 with two employees. We have since grown to over 50 employees and counting. Elemental Energy has focused on residential and commercial systems statewide. 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 236 customers. This number includes more than 45 low-income families who would not have otherwise been able to afford to go solar. This rebate program also allowed battery backup storage to be added to more than 40 homes.

Elemental also built community projects which cater to low-income Oregonians. At Cedar Commons, a 49kW solar PV system was included in the development by Central City Concern and is located in the Powellhurst-Gilbert neighborhood of SE Portland. 20 studio units of this development are used for permanent supportive housing. With lower energy costs, Central City Concern is able to provide more support to their residents.

Additionally, New Narrative is a Tigard-based nonprofit that offers integrative mental healthcare, peer support programs, and a variety of types of housing options to meet

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the needs of people who experience mental health issues. Their development in the Pleasant Valley neighborhood of SE Portland is a 15-unit affordable housing community that serves low-income individuals who are homeless and/or diagnosed with persistent mental health issues. The community integrated a 30kW solar PV system to offset costs, leaving more resources for mental health services and case management through New Narrative's internal service teams.

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. 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. Please support robust funding for the Solar and Storage Rebate program.

Sincerely,



Katie Martin  
Construction Manager  
Elemental Energy

