



April 23, 2025

Attn: Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Testimony in Support of SB 927

Dear Chair Meek, Vice-Chair McLane, and Members of the Committee,

The Oregon Solar + Storage Industries Association (OSSIA) supports SB 927, which would support renewables development in rural Oregon.

OSSIA is a trade association founded in 1981 to promote clean, renewable, solar technologies. OSSIA members include businesses, non-profits, and other solar and storage 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 to advocacy. We represent the solar industry by advocating for effective policy and regulation for manufacturing, residential, commercial, community, and utility scale solar and storage projects on the local, state, and regional level.

SB 927 helps solve a problem that is unique to some western states: Oregon is not a part of a Regional Transmission Organization (RTO). RTOs are responsible for some combination of the following functions: designing and running energy spot markets, managing a capacity market which ensures that electricity supply meets future demand with adequate reserves), transmission planning, providing transmission service, and administering a generator interconnection process.

RTOs are also responsible for standardizing wheeling charges and ensuring fairness and transparency across the market. A wheeling charge is the cost to move power from a grid owned by one entity, to a grid owned by another entity. Without an RTO to standardize these wheeling charges, getting power from the southeastern corner of state to Oregon's biggest populations center can be quite expensive.

However, areas that are expensive to connect might be great spots for renewables in terms of land-use and economic development. SB 927 would help to make these hard-to-reach areas of Oregon more possible for renewable development, which in turn helps Oregon meet its clean energy goals and brings needed property tax revenue to rural Oregon.

SB 927 would also help level the playing field for renewable developers. Oregon has dozens of small business that develop large renewable projects and a tax credit like the one proposed in SB 927 would help level the playing field with national and international companies.

OSSIA urges passage of SB 927 in order to support clean energy and economic development in Oregon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Angela Crowley-Koch". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Angela Crowley-Koch
Executive Director