



House Committee on Climate, Energy and the Environment
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem Oregon 97301

February 3, 2026

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-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, advocacy, policy, and regulation for manufacturing, residential, commercial, community, and utility scale solar and storage projects on the local, state, and regional level.

OSSIA strongly supports HB 4031, a bill to temporarily provide siting streamlining for renewable energy projects at risk. While the changes proposed in the bill are small and temporary, the impact on economic development, county property tax revenue, and clean energy goals would be large.

Solar projects take many years to develop. Like most businesses, developing a solar project requires regulatory and tax certainty in order to make the project pencil out. The solar industry thought we had certainty; federal tax credits were set for ten years, with an expiration date of 2030 and flexible safe harbor provisions.

Unfortunately, the bill passed by Congress last year pulled the certainty rug out from under us. Projects that take years to develop only had one year to start construction and four years from that to make the project fully operational. While four years may seem like a long time, projects sited at the state Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC) regularly take up to three years just for the permit. Plus, working with utilities to upgrade grid equipment can also take months to years. Then adding in interconnection agreements with utilities, securing a contract for the energy, and building the project itself, the timeline becomes impossible for some projects.

HB 4031 will enable some projects to move forward and meet tax credit deadlines that might not be possible if they had to wait one to three years for an EFSC permit. While the county process is rigorous and includes wildlife, habitat, and historical preservation, it only takes between 3-12 months. The county permit process does not include some of the extra requirements of going

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through EFSC, which was a process originally designed to site nuclear plants. If projects are able to be temporarily sited through the county, they will be able to make the tax credit deadlines and allow the project to proceed.

It is important to support the construction of renewable projects in Oregon for many reasons. First, the projects will be some of the top property taxpayers in their counties, bringing much needed revenue to rural areas. Second, the 500-800 workers that build these projects bring much needed indirect economic benefits. The workers of one project built near Baker City not only spent money on food and lodging during construction, but also bought used cars while they were there! Third, Oregon utilities are behind on their clean energy requirements and a temporary siting improvement can help them move toward their goals. Lastly, while some projects may be able to move forward without the tax credits, the cost of those projects will be 30-40% higher, increasing the cost of electricity for ratepayers. Getting projects built sooner will save Oregonians money.

OSSIA urges the committee to support HB 3041 and provide temporary siting streamlining for the dozen or so projects that can be finished before 2030, but that do not have time for the long EFSC process.

Sincerely,

Angela Crowley-Koch
Executive Director