



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

February 3, 2026

Dear Chair Sollman, Vice-chair Brock-Smith 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 supports SB 1526, a bill to direct Oregon Department of Energy to seek funding to start up for an independent fund that can provide capital for public and private projects across the state. While Oregon has made progress toward creating resilient communities, like by passing two bills last session to build microgrids, funding it to create a resilient Oregon is still lacking.

For example, Oregon counties recently submitted energy resilience plans to the Oregon Department of Energy and many contain plans to build microgrids, or buildings that have solar and battery back up to keep the lights on during an emergency. However, battery systems are still expensive and funding support is needed. The type of entity imagined by the FORGE act is a great example of a public-private partnership to provide real benefits to Oregonians.

Projects that could be funded by such a program would also create jobs for small business solar companies in Oregon, who would install those microgrids. It is an especially important time to support Oregon's solar small businesses, who are experiencing layoffs due to the elimination of the federal solar tax credit. OSSIA urges this committee to support SB 1526.

Sincerely,

Angela Crowley-Koch
Executive Director