



February 4, 2026

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

**Re: SB 1526 - SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Sollman, Vice Chair Brock Smith, and Members of the Committee,

Climate Solutions is a regional nonprofit working to accelerate clean energy solutions to the climate crisis. Oregon Environmental Council (OEC) is a nonprofit organization advancing innovative, collaborative and equitable solutions to Oregon's environmental challenges for today and future generations. On behalf of our thousands of members statewide, **we urge you to support SB 1526, the Fund for Oregon Resilience, Growth, and Energy (FORGE) Act.**

Thanks to past legislative leadership to advance clean energy policies and investments, Oregon has made meaningful progress in growing our clean energy economy. More than 60,000 Oregonians already work in clean energy<sup>1</sup>— from heat pump installers keeping families safe in extreme weather to line workers upgrading the grid for wildfire resilience. By continuing to accelerate the clean energy transition, Oregon can create even more family-wage jobs in construction, manufacturing, and operations— jobs that cannot be exported and that strengthen both our economy and our energy future.

Unfortunately, recent federal actions have put Oregon's clean energy progress and affordability at serious risk. Most notably, H.R. 1 eliminated key federal incentives for home energy efficiency upgrades, rooftop solar, medium- and heavy-duty electric vehicles, charging infrastructure, and renewable energy deployment. These rollbacks create immediate and significant financing gaps. Left unaddressed, these gaps threaten to slow economic development, raise costs for families and businesses, and jeopardize Oregon's clean energy goals.

SB 1526 offers Oregon a clear and timely solution. By establishing the Fund for Oregon Resilience, Growth, and Energy, this bill would help fill critical financing gaps left by federal rollbacks, leverage public dollars to attract private capital, accelerate clean energy, resilience, and housing projects statewide, and protect affordability while creating family-wage jobs.

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<sup>1</sup>[US Department of Energy, 2024 USEER Appendix](#)



SB 1526 would provide bridge financing that keeps projects moving, supports small businesses and contractors, and sustains clean energy and construction jobs across Oregon. By expanding access to affordable capital, the FORGE Fund would help finance building improvements, renewable energy projects, grid upgrades, climate-resilient infrastructure, and housing stability, while reducing long-term energy costs for families and businesses.

Importantly, the Fund's structure reduces investment risk, making more loans available and affordable and multiplying the impact of public dollars by attracting private investment. This catalytic approach ensures Oregon has the capital needed to deliver real projects on the ground, from solar and electrification to habitat restoration, home hardening, and community resilience investments.

Oregon has proof from other similarly sized states that these types of funds work. Since its inception in 2011, the Connecticut Green Bank has supported the creation of over 30,000 jobs, reduced energy costs for over 8,000 businesses and 69,000 households, and created an investment leverage ratio of \$6.70 for every \$1.<sup>2</sup> The Colorado Clean Energy Fund, a nonprofit entity established to bridge the gap between projects and capital, has increased its lending capacity tenfold in less than three years. CCEF started with \$25 million in initial investment, and has mobilized and unlocked \$163 million of private capital alone through its investments.<sup>3</sup>

At a moment when federal leadership is retreating, Oregon can and must lead. SB 1526 ensures the state can protect clean air, affordability, and community resilience while continuing progress toward our climate and emissions reduction goals. It is a practical, fiscally responsible tool to safeguard Oregon's energy future and ensure every community benefits from the clean energy transition.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge your support for SB 1526.

Sincerely,

Nora Apter  
*Oregon Director*  
**Climate Solutions**

Ben Brint  
*Senior Climate Program Director*  
**Oregon Environmental Council**

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<sup>2</sup> [CT Green Bank Strategy and Impact](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Colorado Newsline](#)