



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

February 6, 2026

Chair Sollman, Vice-chair Brock Smith and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kerry Meade, and I am the Executive Director of Building Potential, a nonprofit trade association representing energy efficiency and clean energy businesses across Oregon and Washington. I'm writing to express our support for SB 1526 and the nonprofit financing entity it would create.

Oregon is facing compounding challenges: rapid electric load growth, rising energy costs, affordability pressures, and aggressive decarbonization goals. Together, these realities make building efficiency and development of clean energy and energy storage essential. Yet for many building owners and communities, the upfront costs remain out of reach.

The non-profit entity proposed in SB 1526 would help close this gap by introducing financing approaches that can bring much-needed capital to hard-to-reach sectors. This approach can unlock stalled projects, accelerate market development, and support job creation, while advancing energy efficiency, resilience, and emissions reductions statewide.

We see this as a practical tool to mobilize private investment alongside public goals, especially for projects that struggle to access traditional financing.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our perspective.

Sincerely,

Kerry Meade