



Oregon

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MEMORANDUM

To: Chair Janeen Sollman, Vice Chair David Brock Smith, and Committee Members
Senate Committee on Energy and the Environment

From: Christy Splitt, Government Relations Coordinator

Date: February 18, 2026

Re: Support for HB 4029: Solar Consumer Protection

The Oregon Department of Energy supports HB 4029, a package of protections for consumers of residential solar energy. We were grateful to be part of the work group that led to this bill last year and appreciate the leadership of the Eugene Water and Electric Board and the Oregon Solar and Storage Industry Association in seeing a problem and working to solve it.

ODOE runs the Oregon Solar + Storage Rebate Program, which involves coordination with contractors all over the state. Our approved contractors are required to meet a variety of standards to ensure that they are in compliance with Oregon laws and policies. Our system also requires that reservations be obtained before a project begins, which ensures that there will be funding for a rebate when the projects are complete. This protects consumers from paying more than they were quoted by their contractors *after* project completion.

Despite existing provisions that protect our rebate recipients, we have anecdotally heard of incidents over the years that demonstrate that the state could do more to protect them. HB 4029 will help to ensure that homeowners receiving a rebate from us are not victims of unscrupulous lending practices or sales tactics, but instead are confident and well-informed consumers being treated with respect and care by their contractors.

Beyond our own program, we believe that it is essential for consumers to have accurate information regarding the upfront costs and long-term savings associated with solar photovoltaic systems. We know that residential solar can be an important tool for meeting the state's clean energy goals and can save homeowners money over time. But, if people feel that the sales and financing tactics are risky, they will be less likely to pursue solar for their own homes. We believe that the majority of solar contractors in Oregon do the right things for their customers. Many of them are the exact type of small, homegrown businesses we need in the work force to carry out the clean energy transition. Oregon should not allow bad actors, often from out of state, to affect the reputation of the entire industry.