

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



February 25, 2026

From: Community Renewable Energy Association - CREA

Subject: Testimony in support of HB 4076

Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Brock Smith and members of the committee:

CREA is weighing in today to share its comments on HB 4076 and its proposed amendments.

About CREA:

CREA is an ORS 190 intergovernmental association, with both Oregon local government elected leaders and renewable energy developers on its board of directors. Members include counties, irrigation districts, councils of government, renewable energy project developers, for-profit businesses and non-profit organizations. CREA supports business and local economic opportunities through renewable energy development in a competitive environment. Our organization looks at energy policy from two angles – those of the developers and those of the local governments.

-1 amendment

As we wrote at the first hearing in the House, HB 4076 with the -1 amendments is a commonsense change that will help co-locate generation sites, utilizing existing site locations and infrastructure. We believe this change will be very useful to certain applicable facilities by allowing them to meet the EFSC goal exemption for additional renewable energy development when co-locating at a site with surplus interconnection available.

-A2 amendment

The -A2 amendment adds a similar (though not identical) process for renewable energy developers proceeding through the county-siting process. On its face, we believe this is a

good idea. This amendment came together quickly to help the bill stay on pace for the short session, as a result, very little outside input was able to be provided. CREA can support this amendment, but will very likely seek technical and maybe even substitutive fixes next session to perfect and build upon this idea.

-A3 amendment

The -A3 amendment appears to change the effective date of the legislation, moving it up from Jan. 1, 2027 to 91 days after sine die. CREA is fine with this proposal.

Other issues unaddressed:

1. CREA would like to see already existing county-permitted facilities to get the same treatment at EFSC, as previously EFSC-permitted sites will receive under this bill. This was a change we have been encouraging, but unfortunately did not make it into the amendments, creating different treatment for EFSC-sited versus County-sited projects wishing to expand through a new EFSC permit. We hope to remedy this unfair treatment in legislation in a future session.
2. The amendment fails to incorporate language needed to tie the availability of the benefits to interconnection availability. We would prefer to see it capped by interconnection availability instead of facility size.

CREA believes this surplus generation siting exception is a fantastic idea, we support expanding this proposal as outlined in the amendments and are interesting in continuing the conversation in the interim.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this legislation. Please reach out if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



James Williams, CREA Executive Director