



March 20, 2019

House Energy and Environment Committee  
Chair Ken Helm  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Helm and Honorable members of the House Energy & Environment Committee:

Thank you for allowing A&R Solar to share our support for HB 3325. As an Oregon solar installer, we support clarifying and expediting the process for interconnecting solar with public utilities for projects 25kW-2MW in size. Our support comes from several trying – and needlessly expensive – experiences.

In one recent project, an 100kW solar system to power an agricultural business is now making its way through a 3<sup>rd</sup> round of interconnection study with the local utility. (Because the process is still underway, we've elected to keep the customer's information confidential.)

From a technical perspective, the project should be quite straight-forward. It's a simple warehouse structure with a standing-seam metal roof, and conveniently located near a utility substation. But without publicly available information, or a utility timeline, we cannot promise a would-be customer whether or when their utility might accept their solar interconnection. Instead, we can only confirm this essential information after the customer applies to their utility to complete 1-3 (and sometime more) internal studies to determine if the grid equipment in place can accept the solar installation. These studies often cost the customer tens of thousands of dollars.

With more accessible information, we would gladly spare the utility – and the customers we share – this hassle. But without paying the utility to assess their equipment, we can't correctly set expectations with customers for the potential costs or timeline of interconnecting solar.

This is just one example of many such challenges interconnecting solar in Oregon. From our perspective, HB 3325 provides essential transparency and consumer protection for solar customers, and for utility customers writ large. Thank you for your support.

Bonnie Frye Hemphill

Policy & Partnerships Director | A&R Solar