



March 26, 2019

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

Dear Chair Helm, Vice-Chairs Schouten and Reschke, and members of the committee,

The Oregon Solar Energy Industries Association (OSEIA) is a trade association founded in 1981 to promote clean, renewable, solar technologies. OSEIA members include businesses, non-profit groups, and other solar industry stakeholders. We provide a unified voice of the solar industry and focus exclusively on the solar value chain; from workforce development to permitting, advocacy, policy, and regulation for manufacturing, residential, commercial, community, and utility scale solar projects on the local, state and regional level.

OSEIA shares the concerns that HB 2857 and HB 3274 seek to address. The original language in the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) required 8% of electricity to come from community-based renewable energy projects. The goal was to ensure that the RPS included projects built in Oregon, ensuring that some of the benefits of renewable energy – no carbon or air pollution, local jobs, and property tax income for counties – were realized in Oregon. Since a 2016 change in language, the requirement to build community-based renewable energy projects was weakened and the future of Oregon-based projects is unclear.

OSEIA is also concerned with the high costs of transmission, which is addressed in both HB 2857 and HB 3274. Transmission is a highly technical and complicated issue and we are committed to working with stakeholders to reduce the costs for all parties.

OSEIA has some concerns about HB 3274. While OSEIA supports in conduit hydro projects as an excellent source of renewable energy, we believe all renewable energy projects should have a level playing field and no one type should receive preference over another.

OSEIA is committed to working with all stakeholders and the Public Utility Commission to ensure that Oregonians receive the benefits of renewable energy, at least some of which should be built in-state, providing living wage jobs and clean air benefits to Oregonians. We look forward to continuing the conversation on community-based renewables, including in conduit hydro, transmission and PURPA.

Angela Crowley-Koch
Executive Director
Oregon Solar Energy Industries Association (OSEIA)