



March 26, 2019

Chair Representative Ken Helm  
House Committee on Energy and Environment

**RE: Support for HB 2496 Green Energy Technology**

Architects across the State of Oregon support building-integrated renewable energy projects including battery storage as integration of renewable energy at the building level (as opposed to utility scale) is an increasingly important strategy to Oregon's climate action and Oregon's growing de-carbonized economy.

State projects tend to be long-term owner-occupied buildings that benefit from the amortized cost savings of on-site energy generation and on-site storage. These savings are not always obvious but can be demonstrated cost-beneficial when studied. This bill requires these opportunities be studied.

HB 2496 creates a variety of compliance options for integration of renewable energy, including battery storage and building efficiency) for project design teams to customize solutions uniquely suited to the needs of each project. Battery storage provides important beneficial capabilities for individual buildings to shift peak hours of site-generated energy is consumed to peak hours when grid energy is in highest demand so utilities can rely less upon dirtier "peak-plant" supplied energy. On-site battery storage can provide resiliency to homes and small commercial buildings, allowing direct on-site use of energy when grid service is disrupted. Think of a refrigerator keeping medications cold at a school or a phone charging to maintain communications after a disaster.

Oregonian architects and design professionals need practice working with these new technologies – which only happens through projects. Permitting, regulation, agencies having jurisdiction, Fire Life Safety, sequences of operation and end of life disposal (recycling) are all evolving amidst the emergence of new technologies, which Oregonians embrace. As early adopters, architects and building design experts in Oregon are exporting their "early adopter" experience to other markets, creating more good-paying professional services jobs here in the State.

HB 2496 creates much needed market demand for the emerging technologies that will contribute to the growth of our economy and contribute to our climate action goals.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of this bill.

Sincerely,

Chris Forney | Principal

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