



April 2, 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 supports HB 2494 which extends the public purpose charge until 2036. The public purpose charge has made a difference in the lives of Oregonians across the state and it should continue through 2036.

The creation of the public purpose charge has allowed the Energy Trust of Oregon (ETO) to help home and building owners save billions of dollars on their utility bills over the last 17 years on energy efficiency projects, solar and other renewable energy systems, and irrigation efficiency. The programs the public purpose charge funds put Oregonians to work and create savings for a variety of ratepayers.

In addition, ETO plays a large role in consumer protection. Their Trade Ally system of reviewing contractors gives more assurance to customers that the contractor will do an excellent job. Trade ally partners find it helpful to have that distinction even in non-Energy Trust work, to show that their work has been vetted. The Trade Ally system has raised the bar for installation, benefiting both the customer and the solar industry as a whole.

Lastly, the ETO provides valuable technical training to solar installers. Solar technology is rapidly improving and it is critical that the industry is trained on the most recent technology and best practices to provide excellent service to customers. These technical trainings, some of which are conducted by OSEIA, are held across the state to ensure that solar companies have the most up-to-date information.

The Energy Trust of Oregon provides a valuable service to all ratepayers in their service territory. Not only are they a one-stop shop for customers looking to improve the efficiency of their homes and install solar, but ETO also supports the energy efficiency and renewable energy industries by setting industry standards and developing a fully trained workforce to meet the growing demand for weatherization and renewables installation. OSEIA urges this committee to pass HB 2494.

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