

April 2, 2019

House Committee on Energy and the Environment

Chair Ken Helm

900 Court Street NE

Salem, OR 97301

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

Pine Gate Renewables (“PGR”) is a leading national developer of solar energy facilities including Eagle Point Solar located in Clackamas County. Eagle Point is the largest Solar Apiary in North America, housing 48 apiaries. The site is also undergoing a complete, native pollinator-friendly, prairie restoration on its 41 acres. **PGR is writing to express our strong support of HB 2322, to require the Department of Land Conservation and Development (“DLCD”) to amend Statewide Planning Goal 13 (“Goal 13”) to incorporate the development of renewable energy facilities aligning with state energy and climate policies.**

Goal 13 has not been updated since 1974, a time when Oregon’s legislature was adapting to the 1973 Oil Embargo. Today, another important issue is requiring Oregonians to adapt to a changing landscape, the threat of climate change. This threat requires a similar strategy, a goal exemplifying the State of Oregon’s commitment to, and leadership in, renewable energy development to combat climate change.

While Oregon’s legislature has already passed valiant policies to encourage the rapid development of renewable energy systems such as a 50% Renewable Portfolio Standard, the elimination of coal in Oregon energy rates, and a community solar program, **Oregon’s land use system has proven to be a choke point in the renewable energy development process.**

A tangible example of this conflict can be seen in Oregon’s community solar program. Community solar projects are meant to increase access to renewable solar energy resources by those who are unable to adopt solar by traditional means. To facilitate access, the program requires that community solar projects are in the same utility service territory as their subscribers. In the Willamette Valley, which encompasses much of Portland General Electric’s service territory, projects are severely hampered by the LCDC’s rule banning all solar development on Class I, II, Unique, and Prime soils statewide. In Pacificorp (“PAC”) territory it is difficult to find land that is excluded from these soil restrictions that are also suitable for renewable energy development due to the added infrastructure constraints in PAC service territories.

Without a statewide planning goal clearly stating the importance of renewable energy, renewable facilities are in direct conflict with the State’s land use goals. This conflict between state goals makes it incredibly difficult for Oregon to meet its renewable energy goals.



Asheville Office: 130 Roberts Street, Asheville, NC 28801

Charlotte Office: 1111 Hawthorne Lane, Suite 201, Charlotte, NC 28205

Jacksonville Office: 315 3rd Avenue N, Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250

info@pgrenewables.com ♦ www.pgrenewables.com

PGR is eager to bring our experience in sustainable land management and renewable energy development to work with stakeholders and DLCDC to update goal 13 to encompass renewable energy and be compatible with other state planning goals. We are appreciative of the work DLCDC staff has done to develop this legislation and for Director Rue's public support for this conversation.

PGR enthusiastically supports HB 2322 as a first step in making renewable energy compatible with existing land use goals and will be closely following the development of this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Evan Bixby". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Evan Bixby

Market Lead

Pine Gate Renewables

ebixby@pgrenewables.com

(607)245-6230