



Joint Subcommittee on Natural Resources
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem Oregon 97301

June 10, 2019

Dear Chairs Taylor and Reardon 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 has a strong interest in seeing an Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) that can respond to changing renewables markets and technology in order to provide Oregonians with accurate information and a clear vision about where we are heading as a state.

In fact, ODOE's mission is to lead Oregon to a safe, clean and sustainable energy future. OSEIA would like to work with ODOE on its strategic planning to ensure that the Department has the most up to date industry information as it continues to plan for Oregon's future. It is critical that ODOE have sufficient funding to continue its strategic planning, for the benefit of all of Oregon's energy producers and ratepayers. Unlike Oregon's Public Utility Commission, ODOE has the ability to take climate and resiliency into consideration, in addition to safety, affordability and reliability. This gives ODOE a unique role in planning for Oregon's energy future.

In addition, ODOE – in concert with the Department of Environmental Quality – tracks Oregon's progress on meeting its carbon reduction goals. This information is critical for every stakeholder impacted by the potential cap and invest program. If goals are reached ahead of schedule, some businesses may have reduced compliance or an altered compliance schedule and if Oregon is not on track to reach its goals, other businesses may have investment opportunities. ODOE must have adequate funding to ensure the program metrics are accurate for all stakeholders.

In sum, ODOE conducts important work for the benefit of home-grown Oregon renewable energy and also on behalf of all Oregon businesses and ratepayers. OSEIA advocates robust funding to allow ODOE to continue this vital work.