

Joint Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Natural Resources
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem Oregon 97301

March 2, 2021

Dear Co-Chairs Taylor and Reardon and members of the committee,

Elemental Energy is an emerging solar installation business based in Portland with a second location in Medford, OR. We've been awarded as one of the nation's top solar contractors and are proud to employ a team of 46 workers. For nearly the past ten years we've contributed to the growing trend of distributed renewable energy systems, specifically solar, for Oregonians that wish to take climate action and produce their own local energy.

Last year we participated in the Solar + Storage rebate program, and we strongly encourage this committee to renew funding for this important jobs and energy resilience effort. The projects supported by the rebate program helped keep our business going and our employees working during a time of severe economic uncertainty. Furthermore, these funds have proven to be one of the contributing factors that make solar more affordable for homeowners experiencing lower-incomes.

Elemental Energy completed dozens of projects that leveraged these funds around the state, here are a few examples:

- A low-income home in Powell Butte, Oregon, for a recent retiree that encompassed a substantial rooftop solar array to reduce the homeowner's electricity bills long into retirement.
- A low-income home in Milwaukie, Oregon, for a single-income family with a working educator that included a rooftop solar array that offsets the vast majority of the home's electrical use.



Elemental Energy strongly supports the Oregon Department of Energy's request for \$3 million to refund the Solar+Storage rebate program. In the first year of the program, only \$1.5 million was available for rebates, and that amount was fully requested in the first six months of the program.

We would like to continue helping our customers go solar and save money on their energy bills, increase homeowner resilience to weather power outages and storms, as well as keep our employees working through the pandemic.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Zachary Sippel
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