



May 6, 2021

To: Sen. Lee Beyer, Chair, Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
Sen. Lynn Findley, Vice-Chair, Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
Members, Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

From: Angela Crowley-Koch, Executive Director, Oregon Solar + Storage Industries Association
Diane Brandt, Oregon Policy Manager, Renewable Northwest

Re: Testimony re: HB 2064

Dear Chair Beyer, Vice-Chair Findley, and Members of the Committee,

Renewable Northwest is a regional, non-profit renewable energy advocacy organization based in Oregon, dedicated to decarbonizing the region by accelerating the transition to renewable electricity. Our members are a combination of renewable energy businesses and environmental and consumer groups. Oregon Solar + Storage Industries Association (OSSIA) is a trade association founded in 1981 to promote clean, renewable, solar technologies. OSSIA 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.

Renewable Northwest and OSSIA encourage the Committee to support passage of HB 2064, to change the quorum requirement for the Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC).

It is difficult to recruit and retain EFSC members, since the volunteer position deals with highly technical matters, involves a great deal of travel, and a large time commitment. Due to the nature of the work, there are often a number of unfilled seats on EFSC. Changing the quorum requirement allows the Council to continue its work – including siting new renewable energy projects – even if there are unfilled positions. If HB 2064 is not adopted it could result in permit delays, which can cost the renewables industry valuable time and money during project development. We urge you to support HB 2064.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Diane Brandt".

Diane Brandt
Oregon Policy Manager
Renewable Northwest

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Angela Crowley-Koch".

Angela Crowley-Koch
Executive Director
Oregon Solar + Storage Industries Association