



SIERRA CLUB

OREGON CHAPTER

SB 1519 – Community Solar Projects

Testimony by Terry J. Harris, Sierra Club Oregon Chapter Legislative Committee
Senate Committee on Energy and Environment - February 2, 2022

The Sierra Club Oregon Chapter submits this **testimony in favor of SB 1519**, legislation that would provide property tax exemptions for community residential solar projects. In light of increasingly obvious evidence of the urgency of the climate problems we're facing in Oregon, it is increasingly important that we reduce our carbon emissions as much and as quickly as possible. Community solar projects are a great way to provide renewable clean energy to the grid and the state should do what it can to promote and encourage these projects.

This legislation would simply extend the property tax exemption currently available to single residences for solar installation, to community projects serving multiple residences. This would allow more people to generate more solar power with more attractive financing for owners and investors. We will need this greater participation if Oregon is to meet its goals for 100% clean renewable power by 2040. We thank the sponsors and the committee for bringing this bill forward, and we urge a favorable vote.

The Oregon Chapter of the Sierra Club represents some 63,000 members and supporters as the state chapter of the oldest conservation organization in the United States.

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