



Senate Committee on Housing and Development
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem Oregon 97301

February 9, 2022

Dear Chair Jama and members of the committee,

The 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 and storage 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.

OSSIA has strong concerns about the unintended consequences of SB 1537 and urge the committee to table the issue for this session so that stakeholders can work on the homebuilders concerns in the interim. In particular, community organizations that work directly with low-income individuals should be included in a stakeholder process, which has not happened to date on this bill.

SB 1537 is not necessary to protect Oregonians and may impede progress on making homes clean and energy efficient. Imbedded costs of efficiency and clean energy security at time of construction are financeable and often incentive funded. These improvements result in long term benefits to low-income and displaced residents through lower energy bills in safer more comfortable housing.

OSSIA is also concerned that SB 1537 could be very expensive for agencies to comply with and could require them to hire outside consultants just to comply with their normal rule making processes. The full fiscal impact of the bill should be carefully evaluated before the bill is moved forward. Agencies already struggle to keep up with the existing code requirements and this bill adds an unnecessary level of bureaucracy.

OSSIA urges the committee to ask stakeholders to meet in the interim to find a better solution to the homebuilders concerns and table work on SB 1537 this session.