



House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem Oregon 97301

February 1, 2023

Dear Chair Marsh 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 strongly supports HB 3055 and urge the committee to advance the legislation in this session. This bill is designed to raise the threshold for solar facilities to be qualifying facilities by raising the eligibility cap from 3 megawatts (MW) to 10 MW. At the federal level, the eligibility cap is set by the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act (PURPA). PURPA sets the federal eligibility cap qualifying facilities (QF) at 80 MW.

In 2005, the Oregon Public Utility Commission set the eligibility cap for solar and wind QFs at 10 MW. Then in 2016, the Commission lowered the threshold for solar facilities down to 3 MW. Overtime the solar market has undergone significant evolution, there were many developers developing projects under 3 MW between 2005-2016. However, the market has shifted and the vast majority if developers installing solar under 3 MWs are for community solar projects. The current market for solar promotes building very large projects to meet renewable energy goals, instead this bill is aimed to spur new small-scale solar development.

Aligning the solar eligibility cap with the current wind eligibility cap puts the two renewable resources on a level playing field, Additionally, this legislation will enable these small-scale solar developments to pair solar with energy storage system.

OSSIA supports HB 3055 and urges the committee to advance the bill in order to promote development of small-scale solar energy projects in Oregon.