

Submitter: Pat DeLaquil

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure: HB3004

Testimony on HB 3004-2 to the
House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Chair Marsh, Vice Chairs Levy and Levy, members of the House Climate, Energy and Environment Committee,

My name is Dr. Pat DeLaquil, and I am an energy system modeler and climate policy expert. I live in Gresham, and organize with the Metro Climate Action Team, which is a community of volunteers working to ensure Oregon is a leader in addressing the climate crisis.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of the interconnection portions of HB 3004-2, which provide incentives needed to help rapid scale-up of distributed renewable energy supply and storage projects throughout the state.

I have worked in the renewable energy commercialization business since 1980, and recall the early papers in the mid-to late 1980s on the future transition of our electric supply system from its centralized generation model to a networked system by adding distributed generation and storage systems that would provide greater reliability and resiliency. In those days, the cost of renewable energy was a significant barrier to large-scale markets and we had to work thru niche markets and incentives. However, today, solar and wind are our cheapest options for new generation, and so it's time to scale-up these resources up as rapidly as possible.

The interconnection incentives in HB 3004-2 will help to remove some remaining economic barriers to distributed and community-based renewable projects through the following programs to:

1. Provide solar and wind project developers with a tax credit for the transmission costs they must pay to utilities to deliver their power to customers,
2. Provide grants to developers of solar and wind projects to support construction of interconnection facilities, and
3. Requires utilities to repay developers for network upgrades needed to interconnect RE projects.

Renewable energy project developers shouldn't have to pay for adding to or strengthening our public utility infrastructure. They are providing a public good, and the public utility should reimburse them for these investments.

Regarding the community solar portions of this bill, I defer to the position of OSSIA that they be handled in SB 15 rather than this bill.

I urge you to vote in favor of a modified HB 3004-2, which help to build the network of distributed generation and storage projects that will form and important component of a reliable and resilient electricity system for Oregon.

I thank you for your time.

Dr. Pat DeLaquil
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