



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

March 13, 2023

Dear Chair Marsh, Vice-chairs Levy and Levy, 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 and storage value chains; from workforce development to permitting, advocacy, policy, and regulation for manufacturing, residential, commercial, community, and utility scale solar and storage projects on the local, state, and regional level.

OSSIA urges this committee to pass HB 3418, to support the Solar + Storage Rebate program. The Oregon Legislature created the program in 2019 with overwhelming bi-partisan support and it has been extremely successful. The rebate has been used for projects in 34 out of 36 counties, in some cases providing incentives to Oregonians who aren't eligible for any other type of state or federal incentives. As an industry, we're proud that 37% of rebate funds have benefited low-income ratepayers, expanding access to clean energy across the state.

We ask that you **build on the investment** made in the last two biennia and continue this important program. HB 3418 extends the sunset for the program through 2029, makes a technical change to account for supply chain issues, and the -1 amendment asks for an extension for RED grant deadlines for projects started during the pandemic. OSSIA will also be asking for an additional \$10 million for the program, in alignment with ODOE's POP 203.

The program has been a huge success, with demand far outstripping supply. The rebates are especially critical for low and moderate-income ratepayers, who have difficulty paying the upfront costs for solar and may not be able to take advantage of federal tax credits, which are not currently refundable.

The rebate also created parity in solar incentives for ratepayers around the state. After the previous state incentive ended in 2017, customers outside of PGE or Pacific Power territory have not had access to state-based incentives for solar. The Solar + Storage Rebate Program included a higher incentive rate for those customers without access to other state incentives, creating a more level playing field. The program is the first state incentive that supports clean energy storage, therefore providing resiliency benefits. If a solar system is not paired with battery storage, the solar cannot provide



electricity during an outage; it is connected to the grid and must discontinue generating power to protect workers restoring the grid. However, if solar is paired with battery storage, that home or low-income service provider receives power from the battery system, which was charged during the day by the solar system. The ability to have power during an outage provides our communities with resilience and makes us more prepared for emergencies. For example, in 2021 a solar + storage system in Springfield helped the home get through the outage caused by the Holiday farm fire. For full details on all projects that received rebates, please refer to [ODOE's September 2022 report](#) to the legislature.

Here is a summary of projects in a few House districts:

<u>House District</u>	<u>Number of Projects</u>
HD 5	30
HD 58	13
HD 53	30
HD 19	9
HD 27	5
HD 54	28
HD 2	5
HD 60	1
HD 46	13
HD 6	9
HD 8	12

The Solar + Storage Rebate has been a huge success. Extending and funding the program will allow customers to save money, keep the lights on during future outages, and produce their own clean energy. In addition, the program supports an industry made up of small businesses that employ Oregonians around the state.

Sincerely,

Angela Crowley-Koch
Executive Director