

Re: HB 3418

March 8, 2023

I am writing today from Elemental Energy, a renewable energy design & installation firm based in Portland, Oregon. Founded by graduates of the Oregon Institute of Technology's Bachelor's of Science degree program in Renewable Energy Engineering, our mission is to critically address the way that society uses and thinks about energy. Focused on seeking solutions to the world energy crisis through education and system implementation, Elemental Energy believes in ensuring our clients realize the benefits of their financial investments, and that they move forward confident in their path to energy independence.

To that end, we have seen that the Oregon Solar + Storage rebate program has provided great opportunity and access to a wide swath of Oregon homeowners. This has made the act of "going green" more affordable for all, as well as increasing equitability. We are very much in favor of continuing this program. We have seen this rebate make a significant difference in the lives of many of our Oregon neighbors.

I'd like to share three such stories:

Molly M., who lives in the City of Portland, is the head of a low income qualified family. The Solar + Storage LMI rebate allowed them to replace their old and unusable PV system. It would have been a hardship to replace the system, but with the Solar + Storage LMI rebate, combined with the Energy Trust of Oregon's Solar Within Reach program, this family was able to afford a brand new system that is now offsetting much more of their bill in the same footprint, saving them hundreds, if not thousands, of dollars a year.

Doug & Lorie H., of Camp Sherman, are retirees with a fixed, now declining, income. They were looking to stabilize rising energy costs well into their retirement. They also live in an area where frequent power outages have become health and safety hazards as they age. To that end, Doug and Lorie elected to purchase a solar + storage system, using the Solar + Storage rebate. Without the rebate they would not have been able to make this work within their limited budget. They now have the confidence to age in place in remote, rural Oregon.

In 2022 we were honored to install a 33.75 kW solar system at Chiles House. This eco-friendly building serves as a transitional housing facility, which provides highly affordable housing to help

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individuals recover from potential or lived houselessness. Projects like these would not be possible without funding from initiatives such as Oregon's Solar + Storage Rebate program.

Elemental Energy has been thrilled to be able to facilitate systems for many customers such as Molly, Doug and Lorie, and non-profits such as the Chiles Foundation. We've installed over 75 systems utilizing the Solar + Storage rebate. This is significant not only to our clients, but our company, as this has allowed us to add additional living wage (plus) positions at our company, contributing further to our local and state economies.

We encourage you to keep this excellent program active so that we, along with others in our industry, can continue to help Oregon homeowners of all income brackets go solar.

Many thanks,

Kelli Wolford

*Kelli Wolford*

General Manager

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