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

March 13, 2023

To Chair Rep. Marsh and the House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment,

Power Northwest is a small business based in the Portland area, serving customers in both Oregon and Washington, connecting over 135 clients to solar in calendar year 2022, many with backup battery storage included.

Power Northwest has utilized the Oregon Department of Energy's residential solar rebate programs extensively, and unequivocally supports HB 2418. Oregon's cloudy weather makes the purchase of residential solar a sometimes difficult financial decision, despite the significant long term energy cost savings. The programs offered by ODOE have offered the final push needed for many homeowners otherwise skeptical about the cost of residential solar to commit to purchasing. Continuing these programs until 2029 will encourage thousands of Oregonians to lower their carbon emissions and cut their electricity bills.

Furthermore, the technical change in the legislation clarifying the definition of "paired battery systems" will speed up workflow and customer interconnection times. Currently, projects funded by the Solar+Storage rebate program are unable to be installed even after permitting is completed, due to ongoing battery supply chain issues. The technical change opens the door to the Solar+Storage rebate applying to projects where the battery is sold with the solar system, but installed and paired at a later date.

Andrew Damitio, Project Coordinator