

March 17, 2023

To: House Committee on Climate, Energy and Environment

Subject: HB 3004-2

Honorable Chair Pam Marsh, Vice Chairs Bobby Levy, Emerson Levy and committee members:

Crook County has approved 10 solar projects in recent years and continues to see interest in solar development. We generally support renewable energy and look forward to being a partner in addressing the State's renewable energy goals. In that regard, we encourage exploring different paths to ensure Oregon is an attractive destination for renewable energy developers.

For that reason, I am supportive of HB 3004-2, on the understanding that Section 10, titled "Solar Projects: Fee in Lieu of Property Tax" will be amended to eliminate the language that reduces the payment in lieu of tax for utility scale development. The payment in lieu should remain between \$5,500 and \$7,000 for utility scale developments.

I also have concerns regarding Section 9, titled "Community Solar Projects". The problem with allowing community solar projects to participate in these programs, despite the project's nameplate capacity, is that it broadens the definition of "Community Solar". Community solar projects are currently afforded a number of other incentives and are typically only 2-3 megawatts. In light of SB 54 (2023), which would provide a property tax exemption for community solar projects, it is important that limits on the size of community solar projects be in place.

While there is work to be done, I remain supportive of HB 3004-2 and appreciate the work Representative Helm and others have put into this effort.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Seth Crawford
Crook County Judge