



October 10, 2022

Oregon State Legislature

and

Community Solar Stakeholders (generally)

Solar Oregon has a strong interest in Oregon's Community Solar Program, created in 2016 by SB1547 fulfilling its mission. It was created to give utility customers access and equal benefits to net metering, decarbonize Oregon's grid under an emergency declaration, and incentivize subscriber participation.

Since, the program is badly stalled. Treating all Community Solar capacity on par with Net Metering was PUC recommendations in their October 2015 HB2941 Report. We ask the Legislature to make all Community Solar ad valorem tax exempt to be true to the Program's fundamental goals.

Non-residential Community Solar participants are necessary in order to ensure these projects are financially viable and have a path toward development. These entities include tribes, small businesses, government entities, some encouraged or mandated to reduce GHG emissions. The Sunthurst-proposed bill treats non-residential community solar subscribers equal to non-residential solar net metering customers, which was the common comparison in supporting SB1519. 81% of CS projects were already subscribed to non-residential customers when SB1519 was introduced. Oregon's natural resources and Community Solar Program merits require all CS capacity receive the same ad valorem tax treatment as Net Metering does.

Sincerely,

Solar Oregon

Kelly Yearick
Past President
Solar Oregon