



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

February 4, 2025

Dear Chair Lively, Vice-chairs Gamba 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 2066 to create a clear path for accelerating microgrid development in Oregon. The fast and efficient development of microgrids around the state is essential to Oregon's resiliency during emergencies and to our energy independence. However, these projects are complex; allowing certain facilities to keep power on during a power outage requires in-depth planning and high levels of collaboration between the developer, the utility and the community.

While some Oregon utilities are already building microgrids, development has been slow and not keeping pace with the needs of communities, especially rural communities or those far from grid infrastructure. Power outages are an all-hands-on-deck situation – we need private developers to be building microgrids in addition to the utilities so that community needs can be met.

HB 2066 would set clear guidelines for all stakeholders to enable public-private partnerships for developing microgrids. Clear rules of the road will speed up bringing new microgrids to communities and make Oregon more resilient in emergencies.

Sincerely,


Angela Crowley-Koch
Executive Director