



Joint Committee on Ways and Means subcommittee on Natural Resources
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem Oregon 97301

February 7, 2025

Dear Co-chairs Frederick 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 support the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) budget and in particular support the Solar + Storage Rebate program. The Oregon Legislature created the program in 2019 with overwhelming bi-partisan support and it has been extremely successful. As you heard in the budget presentation, the rebate has been used for projects in 34 out of 36 counties, in some cases providing incentives to Oregonians who aren't eligible for any other type of utility, state or federal incentives. As an industry, we're proud that over 39% of rebate funds have benefited low-and moderate-income ratepayers, expanding access to clean energy across the state.

We ask that you **build on the investment** made in the last two biennia and refund this important program. This is especially important this year for two reasons. First, ODOE is proposing a welcome change to the rebate program in SB 827 by allowing battery storage added to a previously installed solar system to be eligible for a rebate. This is important to increase the adoption of storage and therefore the resilience of our communities during a power outage. Solar will not keep your lights on during an outage unless you also have battery storage. While the cost of solar has come down quite a bit, the cost of storage is still high. It is difficult to purchase both solar and storage at the same time; this policy change will help those with solar to overcome financial hurdles to add battery backup.

Second, 2025 is a critical year for additional funding since federal incentives are uncertain. Should the federal tax credit end, solar installation would see a dramatic reduction, most likely meaning job loss to Oregon small businesses. Legislative funding for the Solar +



Storage Rebate program will be extremely important to customers around Oregon, who want to save money on their bills and be energy independent, and for Oregon's solar companies, who create Oregon jobs. OSSIA is asking for \$20 million in rebate funding in the base ODOE budget.

Sincerely,

Angela Crowley-Koch
Executive Director