



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

February 10, 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 supports the -1 amendment to HB 2566 and has concerns regarding the overall bill. Changes to the Community Renewable Energy Grant Program (C-REP) should be considered carefully. This fund is the only state-wide grant fund dedicated to renewable energy and resilience for public agencies and tribes. The program has been very oversubscribed – cities, counties and tribes need this funding to build resiliency projects that can keep the power on during an outage. ODOE has done an excellent job administering the program and we hope to see it receive more funding this year.

Since the program is working exceptionally well as is, OSSIA has concerns about any changes. While we agree that grid resilience is critical, we have concerns about a full 20% being diverted from this successful program. OSSIA and our members that are working with public agencies and tribes on C-REP grants would prefer a smaller percentage be allowed for this purpose, closer to 10%.

Should this committee decide to move forward with this bill, OSSIA asks that the -1 amendment be adopted. This amendment makes clear that this fund – which was designed for renewable energy projects - will remain funding only renewable energy, and not other types of non-renewable projects. While diesel generators may be considered in some instances, this grant program is not the appropriate place to fund those projects.

Sincerely,

Angela Crowley-Koch
Executive Director