



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,

My name is Ryan Sheehy, and I am the president of Fleet Development. We are a family-owned development company in Enterprise, Oregon. For the last six years, our focus has been on developing rooftop solar for multifamily affordable housing. This type of housing meets the needs of lower income Oregonians and seniors. It is the type of housing where my grandmother lived comfortably in her final years. It is also a very difficult type of housing to adapt to solar. Physical design complexities aside, the financing of solar projects on affordable housing is the most difficult barrier to overcome. The Oregon Solar Plus Storage Rebate Program is a model program for bridging financial gaps because it is simple to use, reliably available, and does not encumber the project with collateral and lien requirements that do not work in the affordable housing world.

Over the last several years, the Solar Plus Storage Rebate has helped make solar a reality on over 15 apartment complexes throughout Southern and Eastern Oregon in rural counties. Because Energy Trust Incentives are only available in PacifiCorp and PGE territories, most rural Oregonians are left out. The Solar Plus Storage Rebate provides some access to funding that the metro Oregon already has access to.

I would ask that you think of this rebate, not as a giveaway, but as a catalyst for business in rural Oregon. I grew up on a cattle ranch in Wallowa, OR that is now operated by my sister. The ranch will not support two families. Instead, my renewable energy development work is feeding my family of four. My nephew, an electrician apprentice, is working on my projects. This type of development generates well-paying jobs in rural Oregon, and it is my hope that more kids graduating from local high schools can pursue work in the renewable energy field. In addition, a solar project is a pragmatic decision for the multifamily operator. Costs are escalating across the board, and a solar project is a good business decision to rein in those costs keeping a multifamily apartment a viable property going forward. Thank you for your support of this valuable incentive.

Sincerely,

Ryan Sheehy

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "R. Sheehy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

President, Fleet Development