

Submitter: Daniel Benner

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On
Natural Resources

Measure, Appointment or SB5518
Topic:

To Oregon State lawmakers,

Oregon Department of Energy funds for solar and storage are critical for meeting renewable net-zero energy goals as outlined by the state, and also increase the access to the benefits of solar to disadvantaged communities.

Low and Moderate Income funds are particularly important in this regard, as they apply to homes that have the least financial capacity to invest in and benefit from solar. In addition, not all Oregon homeowners live in Pacific Power and PGE territory, and can benefit from Energy Trust of Oregon Solar Within Reach incentives, and those incentives were reduced January 1st of this year.

As we experience more dangerous weather events due to climate change, low-income homes are particularly vulnerable to outages and the negative consequences of them; making storage options more accessible through these incentives will help them weather those storms, and have more capacity to participate in utility grid balancing through virtual power plants and battery pilot programs.

Making solar and storage accessible to all communities, regardless of means, should be a policy priority for this committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in regards to this important matter,

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