

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

February 11, 2025

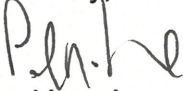
Dear Co-chairs Frederick and Levy, and members of the committee,

My name is Paul Israel, Founder and President of Sunlight Solar Energy in Bend, Oregon. We are a family owned and operated solar contractor, servicing all of Central Oregon. Sunlight Solar started in the early 2000s and has helped Central Oregonians go solar ever since. Sunlight Solar has focused on both residential and commercial solar and are building a larger presence in the low income housing market as well. The Oregon Solar Plus Storage Rebate Program has been a big boost for our business' growing goals. Before funding ran out last year, this Rebate Program allowed us to make solar a reality for so many customers, specifically those in Co-op territories who have no other rebates available. It also allowed us to install solar on many low income neighborhoods who would not have otherwise been able to afford to go solar.

Please refund the Solar + Storage rebate program by including \$20 million for this program in ODOE's base budget. It was difficult for our customers and our business, when funds ran out last year. I ask you to allow the solar industry to help Oregon families who can't afford the recent utility rate hikes to have an alternative solution.

Lastly, from a business standpoint, the lack of funding made budgeting difficult to be able to sustain the backbone of our company, the employees. Please support robust funding for the Solar and Storage Rebate program.

Sincerely,



Paul Israel
Founder and President
Sunlight Solar Energy