



Chair Solman and Committee Members,

The Coalition for Community Solar Access (CCSA) supports SB 92 and the -2 amendment, which seeks to provide some definition, clarity, and certainty for the Oregon Community Solar Program and also extends the program.

CCSA is a national trade association representing over 125 community solar developers, businesses, and nonprofits. Together, we are building the electric grid of the future where every customer has the freedom to support the generation of clean, local solar energy to power their lives. Through the support of a diverse coalition we enable policies that unlock the potential of distributed energy resources, starting with community solar.

SB 92-2, will empower Oregon with real energy independence all while delivering more choices, more competition, cost stability to all ratepayers, and more opportunity for everyone.

Community solar is an energy solution that empowers anyone with an electric bill to choose affordable, locally generated solar power without needing to install a system on site. Each project has multiple subscribers who buy the energy and receive a credit on their electricity bill for their portion of power produced. It gives citizens and businesses the choice to participate and does not require state funding or state subsidies.

We understand the community solar program passed by the legislature in 2016 will soon need to stop accepting applications, with no immediate plans to expand or continue the program. Working in states all throughout the country, CCSA knows first-hand that compared to other state's community solar programs, Oregon barely registers on the national map with its caps on project and program size.

SB 92 will increase those caps set by the Public Utility Commission and fulfill the legislative intent from 2016 of creating a workable and sustainable program.

Why the Coalition for Community Solar Access supports community solar:

- **This legislation will make much needed improvements that foster outside investment into Oregon. Our member companies are ready to invest capital and resources into Oregon should some of the barriers addressed by SB 92 be removed.**
- Community solar saves money for residents and for local businesses/governments.
- Community solar provides a choice for Oregon residents to advance renewable energy, even if they are renters or are experiencing low-incomes. It's the only way that

low-income ratepayers can receive 100% clean energy at a discount, just like a homeowner with solar would.

- Every community solar project has 10% low-income subscribers, who receive about a 20% bill discount. There are also community solar projects that have over 50% low-income subscribers, providing bill savings to those that need it most.
- Community solar generates large economic benefits for small businesses, landowners, contractors, and subscribers.
- Community solar strengthens the grid with non-utility investments in the distribution system.
- Community solar helps Oregon achieve its climate goals.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration on how to provide Oregonians the certainty that they can invest in and benefit from community solar into the future.

Regards,

Derek Chernow  
Western Region Director  
[Coalition for Community Solar Access](#)  
derek@communitysolaraccess.org