

February 24, 2025

Sent via OLIS.

TO: Chair Solman and Members of the Committee

RE: **Support for SB 92 and the –2 Amendment: A Critical Measure to Continue Solar Success and Community Benefits in Oregon**

FR: Oregon Business for Climate

Chair Solman and Committee Members,

**We support SB 92 and the –2 amendments to advance Community Solar.**

**Oregon Business for Climate** is a league of businesses across the state in a range of industries from manufacturing to agriculture to transportation to healthcare. We believe climate leadership is critical to the health of Oregon’s industries and communities, and will help our state re-emerge as a leader thriving in the growing clean economy. To that end, our mission is to advance urgent, ambitious, equitable climate policies and programs designed to help spur innovation and economic opportunity while effectively and responsibly reducing emissions.

In short, we are a statewide group of businesses that see both the **imperative** and the **opportunity** of taking bold action to address climate change. We believe Oregon can and must do more to address climate change, that business plays a critical role in this progress, and that aggressive action is good for Oregon.

**For economic, community, and climate benefits, Oregon Business for Climate supports SB 92 and the -2 amendment.** This solution will provide improved definitions, clarity, and certainty for the Oregon Community Solar Program, while extending the program in ways that will attract investment and move the program forward.

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.

The current status of the program is preventing investment and community benefits. 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. Compared to other state’s community solar programs, Oregon barely registers on the national map with its caps on project and program size. This legislation will increase those caps set by the Public Utility Commission and fulfill the legislative intent from 2016 of creating a workable and sustainable program.

Community solar is a critical piece of Oregon's community-benefiting and opportunity-driving set of climate tools:

- Community solar creates opportunities: This climate solution **generates business opportunities for small companies and clean energy jobs throughout the state**, along with economic benefits for landowners, contractors, and subscribers.
- 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 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.

**Oregon Business for Climate SUPPORTS SB 92 and the –2 Amendments. We need to keep Oregon moving forward, capturing the benefits of a clean economy – especially for low-income ratepayers, contractors, and workers throughout the state.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Miller', written in a cursive style.

Tim Miller  
Director  
Oregon Business for Climate