



Senate Committee on Energy and Environment  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem Oregon 97301

February 25, 2025

Chair Sollman, Vice-chair Brock Smith and members of the committee,

The Oregon Solar + Storage Industries Association (OSSIA) is a trade association founded in 1981 to promote clean, renewable, solar technologies. OSSIA members include businesses, non-profit groups, and other solar and storage industry stakeholders. We provide a unified voice of the solar industry and focus exclusively on the solar and storage value chains; from workforce development to permitting, advocacy, policy, and regulation for manufacturing, residential, commercial, community, and utility scale solar and storage projects on the local, state, and regional level.

While OSSIA shares the concern that any waste from solar be handled appropriately at the end-of-life, Oregon has been proactive and ahead of many other states with a commonsense approach to dealing with end-of-life panels. Because Oregon is already addressing this issue, we believe this bill is not necessary.

Oregon law requires bonding for decommissioning of utility scale solar projects as part of the permitting process. Every utility scale solar project in Oregon has this bonding for end-of-life, which is considered a best-practice.

When projects are decommissioned, best practice is for the panels to be recycled. Market development of solar recycling has been expanding with federal support and increasing volume of panels, creating a nascent market. Since solar panels have a 25-year life span, we have yet to see a large demand for panel recycling. There are solar recycling companies currently accepting end-of-life panels for recycling throughout the U.S. As more and more panels need to be recycled, panel recycling capacity will continue to grow.

OSSIA's national partner, the Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA) maintains a vetted recycling partner list which represents greater than 10MM panels per year of recycling capacity. While the Pacific Northwest currently does not have any recycling processors, Seattle and Spokane have collection sites for panels needing to be recycled. In addition, companies specializing in refurbishment/re-us are starting to enter the market.



SEIA is also currently developing ANSI industry standards for project decommissioning and panel recycling.

Oregon can learn from other states on this issue, particularly those with large volumes of solar installed. Washington state passed a solar recycling bill but has delayed implementation 8 years due to a lack of market. California, the biggest solar market in the country, has technical handling & processing regulations, but not a recycling mandate or program.

In sum, OSSIA strongly supports recycling of solar panels and end-of-life requirements, such as the bonding requirements currently in place. There will most likely not be a big enough market for large recycling programs for another 10 years, due to the long life of solar panels, so we believe a study is not necessary at this time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Angela Crowley-Koch". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Angela Crowley-Koch  
Executive Director