



4145 NE Cully Blvd., Portland, OR, 97630 | 503-290-8570

February 25th, 2025

To: Senate Interim Committee on Energy and Environment

RE: Support SB 92

Chair Sollman and Committee Members,

My name is Annabelle Rousseau, I am the Advocacy Coordinator at Verde, a community based organization focused on building environmental wealth through organizing, advocacy, and social enterprise. Verde 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.

Verde is based in the Cully Neighborhood of NE Portland, one of the most diverse communities in Portland. Verde Builds, our social enterprise program, installs heat pumps and other home energy upgrades, as well as developing community solar installations in low-income communities of color. We focus on creating more energy efficient homes because it's a crucial step in fostering a healthy environment, community empowerment and economic stability for Cully neighborhood residents.

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 Portland Community Solar Program that Verde has piloted with the Bonneville Environmental Foundation will bring direct savings to low-income households in our community. For our community members, Community Solar means more opportunities: more opportunities to pay their bills, more opportunities to have peace of mind, and more opportunities to participate in low-emissions energy. One Cully resident enrolled in the program noted, "With the savings, I'm going to buy more food, because right now the cost of food is very high."<sup>1</sup> Investing in Community Solar provides savings to numerous families and also ensures that their energy burden decreases<sup>2</sup>.

Investing in community solar goes beyond providing savings to communities across the state, it can also foster a strong local workforce. Through Verde Builds' community solar projects, we have seen the potential for job creation and have begun planning for expanded opportunities in the growing renewable energy sector. By investing in the Community Solar Program, we can

---

<sup>1</sup> Verde (2024), PDX Community Solar, <https://youtu.be/WCqh8GK0y2w?feature=shared>

<sup>2</sup> Oregon Department of Energy (2018), Home Energy Scoring: For Communities <https://www.oregon.gov/energy/save-energy/Pages/Home-Energy-Score-Communities.aspx>



4145 NE Cully Blvd., Portland, OR, 97630 | 503-290-8570

ensure energy affordability while also generating local jobs and career pathways for Oregon residents.

There are great present and future needs for emissions-reducing projects that deliver economic, social, and environmental benefits to our communities. Our communities have experienced countless hardships when it comes to affording their energy bills. Verde urges your support of SB 92-2.

Thank you for your consideration,

Annabelle Rousseau  
Advocacy Coordinator  
Verde