

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

February 4, 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.

OSSIA urges this committee to pass SB 969, a bill that aims to eliminate a duplicative review process for renewable energy and transmission projects wholly sited on federal lands. As Oregon works to meet its 100% clean electricity goals by 2040, more transmission and renewable projects will be required. Projects sited on federal land already need to be reviewed under the federal National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) and OSSIA believes an additional state review at the Energy Facilities Siting Council (EFSC) would be duplicative.

The bill also requires that local governments and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife are consulted with and that all laws and rules regarding sage grouse habitat, public health and safety and environmental protection are complied with.

For these reasons OSSIA urges this committee to support SB 969.

Sincerely,

Angela Crowley-Koch Executive Director

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