



# Solarize Rogue

*Promoting the adoption of solar energy in the Rogue Valley*

**Residential, Business, Community**

25 May 2022

Chair Sollman and Committee Members,

Solarize Rogue supports SB 92 and the -2 amendment, which seeks to provide some definition, clarity and certainty for the Oregon Community Solar Program and extends the program.

Solarize Rogue is a small, non-profit organization based in Talent, Oregon, and is responsible for the only “participant-owned” Community Solar project to date in the state. We partner with different organizations to bring the power of clean, renewable, solar energy to communities who otherwise cannot participate in the renewable energy transformation, including renters, mobile homeowners/renters, low-income residents and homeowners without suitable roofs for solar panels. Plus, we offer them the pride of ownership for their energy generation at a reduced cost.

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/owners 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. 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.

## SOLARIZE ROGUE

Why we support community solar:

- Community members can own their energy generation infrastructure, even if the solar panels are not located on their rooftops. And because of economies of scale, the cost is a fraction of a rooftop residential solar installation.
- Community solar saves money for residents and for local businesses/governments by stabilizing energy costs.
- 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.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ray". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "R" and a cursive "ay".

Ray Sanchez-Pescador, President  
Solarize Rogue

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