



House Committee on Climate, Energy and the Environment
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem Oregon 97301

February 25, 2025

Dear Chair Lively, Vice-chairs Gamba and Levy, 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-profits, and other solar and storage 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 supports HB 3628 to create an Oregon Electric Transmission Authority in order to expedite the process and financing for Oregon transmission projects. Oregon is behind: not only in meeting our clean energy goals but in meeting our energy demand at all. More transmission is urgently needed in order to bring new, clean energy onto the grid.

In particular, Oregon needs transmission that would serve projects built in Oregon. Solar projects built in Oregon bring economic benefits to the communities they are built in, both from construction jobs and also from the indirect economic benefits to communities during the construction periods and into the future with property tax revenue. Transmission availability is so constrained that it's challenging for projects built in Oregon to serve Oregon customers.

OSSIA urges this committee to proceed with the bill and to carefully consider all potential impacts from such a new authority. OSSIA recommends that any new commission has a board that does not include representatives from any individual entity that could ever benefit from potential projects – all sectors and stakeholders should be represented by a trade association or other type of group without a direct financial benefit. OSSIA recommends that any new authority work very closely with authorities in other states to use best practices and learn from previous mistakes.

Sincerely,

Angela Crowley-Koch
Executive Director

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