



Chair Sollman and Committee Members,

Electrify Now 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.

Electrify Now is a volunteer organization which promotes the benefits of home and transportation electrification and supports the development of renewable energy resources, rooftop solar and community solar.

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 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.

Why we support community solar:

- Community solar is the easiest and most cost effective way for most renters or homeowners to access affordable renewable electricity to power their homes and vehicles.
- Community solar saves money for residents and for local businesses/governments.
- 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.

Brian Stewart
Co-founder
Electrify Now