



Office of the City Administrator
Vivian Satterfield, Chief Sustainability Officer



February 26, 2025

Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Sollman, Vice Chair Brock Smith, and Committee Members,

On behalf of the City of Portland, I am writing to express our support for SB 92 with the -2 amendment to expand, clarify and create more opportunities in the Oregon Community Solar program.

The City of Portland has adopted goals and commitments toward decarbonization and climate action, including the current Portland Climate Emergency Workplan, and previous Climate Action Plans. Community solar plays a role in helping Portlanders meet our climate goals, and our citywide goal to have 100% of electricity come from renewable energy sources by 2030, with specific escalating targets for locally owned energy.

The Portland Clean Energy Community Benefits Fund (PCEF) was established by Portland voters in 2018 with strong support to provide a consistent, long-term funding source for community-driven climate action efforts that deliver social, economic and environmental benefits for all Portlanders. One of the first environmental initiatives in Oregon led by communities of color, PCEF is funded by a 1% surcharge on high-earning corporations operating in Portland, directing resources toward frontline communities to advance climate resilience and equity.

As part of the grantmaking process of PCEF, we have seen significant demand from nonprofit organizations wanting to construct, host, and connect their community members to the benefits of community solar projects. We have awarded grants to organizations like Verde and Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF), which successfully built the 1MW Goodling Annex Community Solar project in 2024 in partnership with Port of Portland. This project is providing significant cost reduction for low-income households. In the latest round of PCEF grant awards, we supported a number of community solar projects slated to be built in the next five years that are expected to serve over 1,500 low-income Portlanders with energy savings, in addition to job development and training opportunities.

We understand the community solar program passed by the Legislature in 2016 is close to reaching the Public Utility Commission's allotted capacity and will soon need to stop accepting applications. With additional local projects in the pipeline and growing excitement about the opportunities for job creation, local energy generation, and bill savings created by community solar, there is a need to create certainty and growth. We urge you to pass SB 92-2 to allow expansion of this program that benefits Oregonians throughout the state.

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. The program is currently structured with a 10% requirement for low-income participation, yielding ongoing bill savings for at least 10 years. A thriving community solar ecosystem does not require funding or

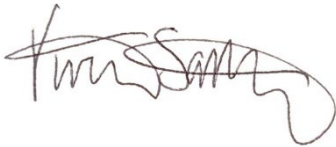
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subsidies from the State, but it does require a clear path forward for growth and development of additional projects, removal of burdensome interconnection barriers, and streamlining of administrative issues. SB 92-2 will empower Oregon with real energy independence while delivering more choices, more competition, cost stability for ratepayers, and more opportunity for everyone.

For these reasons and more, the City of Portland urges your support of SB 92-2.

Thank you for considering how to provide Oregonians with the certainty that they can invest in and benefit from community solar.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vivian Satterfield". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Vivian Satterfield
Chief Sustainability Officer
City of Portland