

Submitter: Helena Birecki

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB92

Dear Chair Sollman and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of SB 92 with the -2 amendment, which would extend the Community Solar Program along with adding additional clarity and certainty.

Community Solar Programs allows renters like me who can't put solar on roofs we don't own to get access to affordable clean energy. The catch is that if this program the Oregon legislature started in 2016 runs up against its caps, no one who hasn't already joined a program will have the opportunity to join.

Solar energy is not perfect, but it has become the most affordable long term solution for electricity. With the -2 amendment adding the option for distributed energy storage in the program, Community Solar becomes even more resilient.

The top three reasons I support community solar are:

- Community solar protects public health and our climate by reducing greenhouse gas and other pollution from the electricity sector.
- Expansion of community solar can meet subscribers' increasing electricity needs as we switch from gas to electric vehicles and appliances while keeping costs lower.*
- Some Oregon community solar projects have over 50% low-income subscribers, and every community solar project has at least 10% low-income subscribers. This provision furthers environmental justice and utility affordability by providing a 20% bill savings to those that need it most.

Please pass this bill, and thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Helena Birecki

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