

February 28, 2025

Chair Sollman Senate Committee on Energy and Environment Oregon State Capitol Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for SB 92

Chair Sollman and Members of the Committee,

The Community Solar program benefits all Oregonians by increasing access to solar energy while helping meet Oregon's decarbonization goals. Expanding the capacity of this program will ensure its viability into the future. <u>Climate Solutions strongly supports SB 92</u>. Climate Solutions is a clean energy nonprofit organization working to accelerate solutions to the climate crisis. The Northwest has emerged as a hub of climate action, and Climate Solutions is at the center of the movement as a catalyst and advocate.

Community Solar is an important tool for Oregonians to access clean solar power without the upfront costs associated with residential solar installations. By subscribing to Community Solar programs, residents and businesses can receive renewable energy and realize significant savings. 12.5% of Community Solar energy goes to low-income ratepayers, who receive a bill discount of 25% on average. Additionally, Community Solar helps advance our clean energy policies. We need a diverse portfolio of clean energy resources, both large-scale and small-scale, to maintain system reliability and decarbonize.

Oregon's Community Solar program launched with a limited amount of capacity. That capacity has nearly been reached. This means that some projects in development for many years may not be completed. SB 92 is a simple fix. This measure expands the Community Solar program by a small percentage each year and removes other logistical hurdles. We urge your support for SB 92.

Sincerely,

Joshua Basofin

Joshua Basofin Clean Energy Program Director Climate Solutions