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February 28, 2025

Oregon State Legislature
Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

Re: Support for SB 969

Dear Chair Sollman and Members of the Committee,

As Oregon-based developers of clean power, we write in support of SB 969 to eliminate the duplicate jurisdiction issue for projects on federal lands, which compose fully 55% of our state.

The barrier in terms of cost and time for projects to undergo both NEPA approval as well as ODOE EFSC approval cannot be overstated. Indeed, no solar projects have been approved by EFSC on Federal land. Obtaining NEPA approval costs \$2-5M and takes a minimum of 2 years. EFSC approval costs an additional \$2M and 2 years. Both generation and transmission projects are subject to this onerous process. Removing this barrier would be incredibly impactful.

The barriers to developing renewable energy in Oregon at the scale at which we all want – for climate, economic development, resiliency, and other reasons – are many. Pardon the pun, but developing solar energy does not happen as fast as flipping a switch. From land acquisition to financing to interconnection to procurement to construction, projects are several years or more in the making.

Currently BPA, has over 20,000 GW of generation in its transmission queue, which translates to hundreds of projects. Nearly all of these projects will need to go through EFSC, which is not prepared to review them all expeditiously. Removing the duplicate jurisdiction will help lift some of this burden off of ODOE and speed the delivery of clean power to Oregonians. My members have projects that have waited in the BPA queue for years and anticipate receiving NEPA approval in the next 24-36 months. These projects would be ready to build and interconnect, but would be delayed for an additional 2 years if forced to undergo EFSC review as well.

We are tremendously grateful to the committee for hearing this important bill. We urge you to vote in favor of it and we stand by as a resource to you to aide in your decision.

Thank you for your consideration,


Gina L. Franzosa
Executive Director