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House Committee on Climate, Energy and the Environment
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE Salem Oregon 97301

March 10, 2025

Dear Chair Lively, Vice-chairs Gamba and Levy, and members of the committee,

Thank you Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. I am the general manager for Cascade Solar. Cascade Solar supports House Bill 3609 and its bold, but achievable, vision for Oregon's energy future.

Cascade Solar is a 10 employee, Portland-based company designing and installing solar and energy storage systems for Oregon homeowners and businesses.

Cascade Solar supports House Bill 3609's policy vision to enable DPPs. DPPs work by bringing together rooftop solar and battery systems with other technologies such as smart thermostats, to provide electricity where and when it's needed most. Cascade Solar has always been committed to providing carefully customized designs to maximize efficiency and value for our customers, and is excited for the opportunities that DPPs will create for further customization and more integrated whole home systems in far more homes.

DPPs will create benefits for all Oregonians, including:

- Saving customers money;
- Providing grid benefits at this time of rapidly growing energy demand;
- Helping to prevent power outages; and
- Reducing the need to operate expensive and polluting "peaker" power plants.

The financial incentives of a DPP program enable more people to adopt solar energy, battery storage, and other distributed energy resources. This means DPPs also spur much-needed economic development, private investment, innovation and technology development, as well as creating high-paying jobs, like those in our company. DPPs are an important tool to diversify our energy economy.

The Department of Energy identifies that the main thing holding DPPs back is that they aren't widely available to consumers yet because voluntary utility programs are stuck at the "pilot" stage, restricting their ability to scale to levels needed to meet growing energy demands. Policy initiatives, such as House Bill 3609, are thus critical to bringing stakeholders and utilities to the table, attracting customers, and ensuring program success. Now is the time to make DPPs available to all Oregonians by setting up a DPP statewide program.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important issue. Please vote YES on House Bill 3609 to enable DPPs to lower electric bills and to provide more energy choices for Oregon consumers.

Sincerely,

Nicole Nicholls
General Manager
Cascade Solar LLC