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

March 10, 2025

Subject: *CREA Testimony in support of HB-3609*

Honorable Chair Lively, Vice-Chairs Gamba and Levy, and Members of the committee:

I'm writing in support of HB 3609 on behalf of the Community Renewable Energy Association (CREA). CREA is an ORS 190 intergovernmental association. Members include counties, irrigation districts, councils of government, project developers, for-profit businesses and non-profit organizations. CREA supports business and economic opportunities through renewable energy development in a competitive environment. We support creating economically and environmentally responsible electric generation within the State of Oregon.

CREA supports scaling distributed power plants (DPP) across Oregon to help with resilience. DPP works by utilizing already built solar, battery storage, electric vehicles and other infrastructure from homes and neighborhoods in times of utility need and compensating those customers for the use of their power.

We understand Portland General Electric (PGE) and Pacifi-corp have already been engaged on pilot distributed power plant programs. CREA believes this bill will still be helpful to ensure and speed up the rollout of distributed power plants.
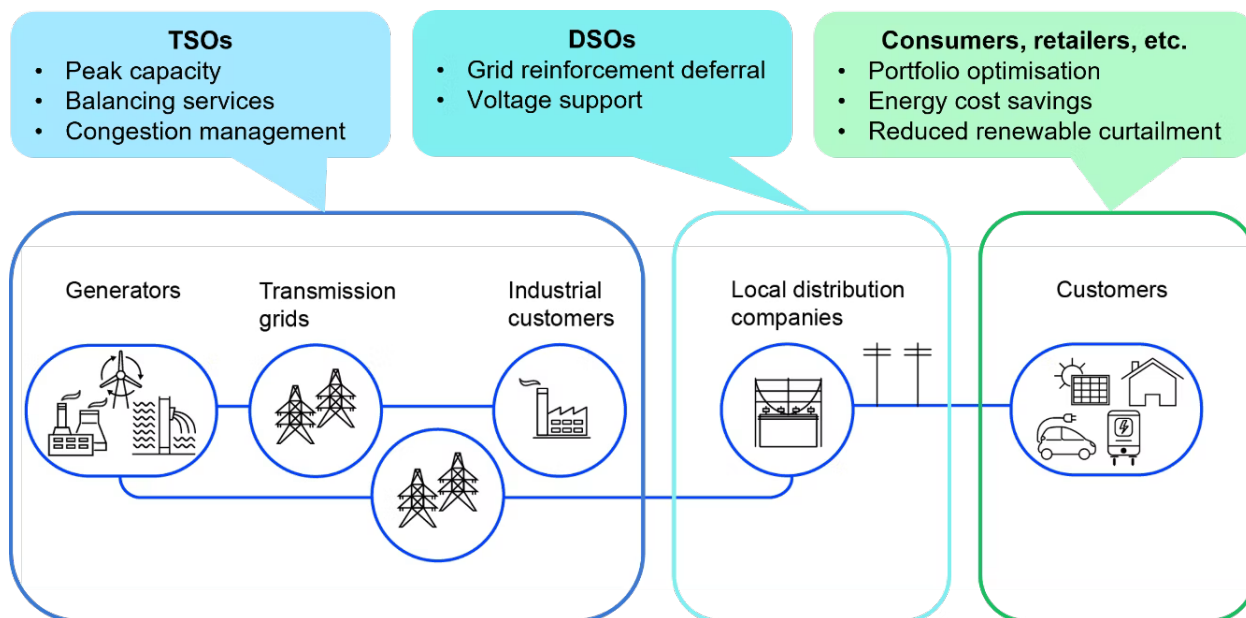
Distributed power plants can come online faster than any other resource, saving both utilities and customers money. The benefit all utility customers by having a smarter, more flexible grid, especially during peak times. Despite the work already done by the utilities, HB 3609 is needed to speed up distributed power plants creation.

Please support passage of HB 3609. Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

James Williams
CREA Executive Director

Infographic: IEA (2022), Unlocking the Potential of Distributed Energy Resources, IEA, Paris
https://www.iea.org/reports/unlocking-the-potential-of-distributed-energy-resources, Licence: CC BY 4.0