



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

March 18, 2025

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

The Oregon Solar + Storage Industries Association (OSSIA) is a trade association founded in 1981 to promote clean, renewable, solar technologies. OSSIA members include businesses, non-profits, and other solar and storage stakeholders. We provide a unified voice of the solar industry and focus exclusively on the solar and storage value chains; from workforce development to permitting, advocacy, policy, and regulation for manufacturing, residential, commercial, community, and utility scale solar and storage projects on the local, state, and regional level.

OSSIA supports HB 2063, to create a task force on agrivoltaics. Agrivoltaics simply means having agricultural production co-existing with solar panels. Oregon already has agrivoltaics – there are multiple sites in Oregon where sheep and/or crops are being raised under solar panels. There is great promise in agrivoltaics – research at Oregon State University may lead to cattle grazing under panels and higher volumes of commodity crops being grown.

Unfortunately, our land-use laws are not currently flexible enough to fully promote this type of beneficial dual-use of farmland. Currently, agrivoltaics on high value soil are banned and on high value farmland are restricted to just 12 acres. These restrictions have prevented the growth of agrivoltaics in Oregon. Oregon's Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) attempted to have a pilot program in 2019, but as OSSIA testified at the time, the timeline was too short and no county was able to explore the option of better rules for agrivoltaics. The task force should explore this issue; OSSIA recommends an addition to the bill to do so. OSSIA recommends the task force should also study and report on how current land-use regulations are barriers to agrivoltaics development and what changes could be made to promote agrivoltaics.

OSSIA strongly supports a deeper dive into agrivoltaics as a win-win solution for clean energy and agriculture. However, OSSIA has concerns regarding DLCD being the lead agency. OSSIA is participating in a DLCD Rules Advisory Committee on solar siting that has been challenging and we feel that the Oregon Department of Energy would be a more neutral convener of such a task force.



Thank you for the consideration of this exciting and promising are for clean energy development and agricultural production.

Sincerely,

Angela Crowley-Koch  
Executive Director