



March 18, 2025

To: Representative John Lively, Chair, House Climate, Energy, and Environment Committee
Representative Bobby Levy, Vice Chair, House Climate, Energy, and Environment Committee
Representative Mark Gamba, Vice Chair, House Climate, Energy, and Environment Committee
Members of the House Climate, Energy, and Environment Committee
From: Emily Griffith, Oregon Policy Manager, Renewable Northwest

Re: Support for HB 2063 Establishing a task force on agrivoltaics

Chair Lively, Vice Chair Levy, Vice Chair Gamba, and Members of the Committee,

Renewable Northwest (“RNW”) is a regional, renewable energy advocacy nonprofit based in Oregon, dedicated to decarbonizing the electricity grid by accelerating the use of renewable electricity resources. Our membership includes renewable energy developers, environmental organizations, and consumer advocates. Thank you for the opportunity to offer our **support for HB 2063 establishing a task force to study and report on agrivoltaics.**

RNW recognizes that siting renewable energy is not easy in this state due to the significant value Oregonians place on the land. Therefore, decisions regarding where to site renewable energy facilities to minimize conflict and maximize land use efficiency with solutions like agrivoltaics (combining solar with agriculture such as crops farming and animal grazing) must be carefully considered.

In order to meet the ambitious goals set by the state, more renewable energy resources need to be built in the region. Farmland protection and responsible siting of solar energy facilities are two important areas to prioritize in land use decisions. Agrivoltaics has emerged as a new tool to bring together stakeholders, invest in rural communities, minimize land-use conflict, and work toward a clean energy future. Agrivoltaics also has the advantage of increasing land use efficiency, resulting in more community support, and providing additional income to farmers when many are facing development threats from other industries that would prohibit continued farming.

Renewable Northwest has spent a significant amount of time researching agrivoltaics and its application in the Pacific Northwest. Findings suggest there are many environmental and economic benefits of creating multifunctional systems that combine and prioritize multiple land uses.

However, something we continually hear is that there aren't enough examples of agrivoltaics in the region to incentivize development of these types of projects at scale. RNW's hope is that this task force, in its report back to the legislature, provides actionable findings that identify where and in what applications agrivoltaics can succeed so that we can incentivize developers to invest in agrivoltaics when it makes sense.

We fully support the creation of this task force and report. The only thing in this bill that gives us pause is the callout that the task force shall study and prepare a report on (among other things) "(e) Recommendations on the *size* of feasible agrivoltaics projects or the proportion of land that may be used for agrivoltaics." We hope this effort does not result in even more restrictive policy recommendations and takes an unbiased look at the potential for agrivoltaics in Oregon.

The renewable energy industry is excited about the task force taking on this work, which can continue to hone in on the important details that we hope solidify the benefits and opportunities that agrivoltaics can bring to Oregon.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support of HB 2063.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Emily Griffith", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Emily Griffith
Oregon Policy Manager
Renewable Northwest