



**Commercial/Industrial Electrical - Limited Energy - BE SOLAR**

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,

My name is Jerry Samaniego. I am the solar sales manager at Benton Electric Inc. We are a family owned and operated electrical contractor that has served the state since 1967. Our solar division has been around since 2006. During that time we've done everything from small residential systems all the way up to 1MW commercial projects.

I'm here to support HB 3747 to create a solar tax credit. This tax credit is refundable, so would be available to homeowners of any income level. Having financial incentives is important to our customers in order for them to afford going solar. It's been challenging for customers to understand what financial assistance is available year-to-year, since the state Solar + Storage Rebate Program keeps running out of funds and the availability of federal tax credits is uncertain.

We had the foresight to predict that rebate funds would run out so we didn't have any jobs that canceled, but we did experience a slowdown in the market generally since the last time that happened. Having a solar tax credit would give more predictability to state solar incentives and give homeowners the confidence they need to move forward.

Having a solar tax credit is also important for small solar companies like Benton Electric. It was difficult for our customers and our business, when state rebate funds ran out last year. The lack of funding made budgeting difficult to be able to sustain the backbone of our company, the employees.

Please support the creation of a solar tax credit, to give both customers the certainty needed to choose clean energy. and small businesses the ability to plan for their employees. A refundable solar tax credit will help Oregon families who can't afford the recent utility rate hikes to have solar as an alternative solution.

Sincerely,

Jerry Samaniego  
Solar Sales Manager, Benton Electric Inc