



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 would support HB 3823 with the addition of a small amendment to strengthen the bill.

Personal property related to net metering – solar energy generated for personal or business use – is currently property tax exempt. Since the Labor Day fires in 2020, the addition of battery storage paired to solar has increased rapidly and continues to grow. OSSIA is working with Rep. Gomberg to include battery storage systems for home or business use to be exempt from property tax.

If you have solar on your roof and the power goes out, your power will also go out, unless you have battery storage paired with your solar. This is a safety feature – when the grid goes down and electricians are repairing the system, having solar still operating would be dangerous. However, if you purchase and pair a battery storage system, your power will remain on. This type of customer-purchased backup system should be exempt from property tax due to the resilience benefits it brings to that customer and the community. If there is one house on the block with power, that house can help neighbors by storing refrigerated medicine and charging phones.

In addition, batteries installed in homes and businesses can provide benefits to the entire grid when they are enrolled in utility grid support programs. Both PGE and PacifiCorp have programs to compensate customers when the utilities use their batteries for grid balancing support.

Due to these benefits of battery back up systems, we respectfully request the addition of batteries to the list of property tax-exempt systems in HB 3823.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Angela Crowley-Koch". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Angela" and last name "Koch" being more prominent.

Angela Crowley-Koch
Executive Director