



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 Tristan Kuenzi, Project Sales Manager at Earthlight Technologies. We are a family owned and operated solar contractor, servicing most of Oregon with offices in Silverton and Redmond. Earthlight started in 2016 with one employee. We have since grown to almost 30 employees and counting. Earthlight Technologies has focused mostly on residential solar but slowly building a strong commercial sector as well.

I am here to support HB 3747 to create a solar tax credit. This tax credit is refundable, so it would be available to homeowners of any income level. Having financial incentives is important for our customers to afford to go solar. It has been challenging for customers to understand what financial assistance is available from year to year. This stems from the state Solar + Storage Rebate Program which continuously runs out of funds and the availability of federal tax credits is uncertain.

We had 12 projects between Eugene and Wilsonville that we had to cancel when the State Rebate funding ran out last year because without it, they could no longer afford the cost. Having a solar tax credit would give more predictability to state solar incentives.

Having a solar tax credit is also important for small solar companies like Earthlight. 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 cannot afford the recent and ever never-ending utility rate hikes to have solar as an alternative solution.

Sincerely,

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