



Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem Oregon 97301

March 24, 2025

Chair Sollman, Vice-chair Brock Smith 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-profit groups, and other solar and storage industry 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 urges this committee to pass SB 1178 to support small renewable projects in Oregon. Small-scale renewable projects, between 2-20 MW, should be encourage and supported in Oregon. Small-scale projects fit well with our land-use system and have been built over the years on lands that are not productive. In fact, there is a bill in the House (HB 3346) to study using “pivot corners,” or the corners of fields without irrigation, to site renewables. Those corners are unproductive, and in areas with no additional water, will always be. Small projects are perfect for areas like these, but utilities have no incentive to purchase power from these projects

SB 1178 closes a loophole created in 2016. At that time, the investor-owned utilities were able to pass a provision that stopped in its tracks an existing requirement for small-scale renewable projects. By changing one word in statute, “generation” to “capacity,” the utilities could claim the day of bill passage that they had met the requirement. After that change, these innovative small-scale projects slowed practically to a stop.

Please support SB 1178 to give small renewable projects a fair chance to be developed and bring clean energy and economic development benefits to Oregon.

Sincerely,

Angela Crowley-Koch
Executive Director

PO Box 14927, Portland, OR 97293-0927
Email: angela@oseia.org
www.orssia.org