



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,

OSSIA submits this additional testimony on SB 1178 to clarify some misleading statements heard on the record today. PGE and PacifiCorp used cost data from projects that were built over a decade ago when solar was more expensive. At this present moment, solar is the cheapest resource one can buy, so taking old data and projecting it to the future is inaccurate. PURPA projects are compensated at the avoided cost, which is cheaper than market value at the time the contract is signed.

In addition, as transmission gets more constrained, projects built close to where Oregonians live provide a level of energy resilience and cost savings on the grid. With small-scale projects, we're not paying to import wind energy from Wyoming, and if something breaks between here and Wyoming, we have these small-scale projects right in our backyard. PacifiCorp's testimony in particular ignores the increase in battery storage, which creates flexibility on timing for when that solar power is released to the grid. Just because the sun isn't shining doesn't mean we can't use solar power.

I appreciated Sen. Robinson's question about why small-scale projects are not cost competitive – it is not that they aren't cost competitive, it's that the utility doesn't make money if they don't own them. PacifiCorp stated that not owning the projects was one of their main concerns, and that's because they can't make money on the project and pass that cost along to ratepayers.

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