

## To Senate Committee on Energy and Environment Support for SB 1178 – Small-Scale Renewable Energy Facilities

March 26, 2025

Chair Sollman, Vice-chair Brock Smith and members of the committee,

My name is Dr. Pat DeLaquil. I am an energy system modeler and climate policy analyst, and I organize with **MCAT** (Mobilizing Climate Action Together), a community of volunteers working on advancing a healthy climate and a green economy for future generations.

I am writing today in support of SB 1178, which requires 10 percent of the electricity sold in this state by each electric company to be generated by small-scale renewable energy facilities or certain biomass facilities.

I have worked in the renewable energy field since 1980, and I have seen firsthand the dramatic reductions in the cost of solar and wind technologies as their installed capacity has increased. And today, according to many reputable sources, solar and wind now the lowest-cost sources of new electricity generation.

As Oregon moves to meet its HB 2021 and other clean energy targets, small scale renewable projects, between 2-20 MW, need to 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.

Oregon already faces significant a constrained transmission system, and projects built close to where Oregonians live provide important energy resilience and cost savings benefits that are not yet fully valued by our electric utilities. Furthermore, the primary barrier to implementing these projects is not that they aren't cost competitive, it's that the utilities don't own them, and they can't make money if they aren't the investor.

SB 1178 closes a loophole created in 2016 when the investor-owned utilities were able to pass a provision that stopped in its tracks an existing requirement for small-scale renewable projects.

I urge you to support SB 1178 to give small renewable projects a fair chance to be developed and bring clean energy, economic development and energy resilience benefits to Oregon.

Dr. Pat DeLaquil  
Gresham, OR

