



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

April 2, 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 supports SB 1102-1. SB 1102-1 provides important fixes to legislation passed in 2021 to require Oregon's investor-owned utilities to have 100% clean electricity. Current law does not have any enforcement mechanisms to ensure that utilities are following the law. In fact, neither utility appears to be on track to meet the law's requirements. Oregon laws must be followed and the Public Utility Commission (PUC) has been unable or unwilling to create enforcement mechanisms, so the Legislature must step in and ensure that the will of this body is carried out.

SB 1102, with the -1 amendment, creates several enforcement mechanisms. The first and most important is the creation of concrete benchmarks or milestones that the utilities must meet to show that they are making continual progress toward the goal. As transmission gets more and more constrained, electricity will only get more and more expensive. If utilities are not procuring clean energy now, it will cost more to ratepayers in the future. Only by requiring that milestones be adhered to will the public know if the utilities are on track to both meeting clean energy requirements and doing so in the most cost-effective manner. This enforcement will save ratepayers money.

Secondly, SB 1102-1 requires that the PUC levy penalties for non-compliance. This enforcement mechanism is essential, since without it, utilities do not have an inherent incentive to follow the law. An unfortunate example occurred this last year. After issuing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for clean energy in 2024, Portland General Electric (PGE) decided not to take any bids, but to wait an additional year. OSSIA strongly opposed this – every year transmission is more limited and electricity is more

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expensive. However, the company did not end up procuring any clean energy through that RFP, since there was no inherent incentive to do so, and every incentive to wait. Since investor-owned utilities only make a profit on assets they own, they are most interested in RFPs that include projects that are “Build Transfer Agreement” or BTA. BTA projects are transferred to utility ownership, allowing utilities to make a profit on them. The more expensive an asset is, the more a utility can earn a rate of return on that investment. It is in the utilities’ interest to postpone acquiring clean energy as long as possible, in order to have more expensive projects, in order to maximize their profits. Only by having penalties will utilities comply with the law in a cost-effective manner.

SB 1102-1 also requires that Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) be retired when used for compliance. This issue was a big concern during the formulation of HB 2021 and was never settled, and no directive was given to the PUC to solve this problem. The Legislature should correct this issue to create clarity for this and all other programs that use RECs, to ensure integrity of RECs.

Lastly, SB 1102 codifies transparency regarding all emissions from Oregon utilities. Ratepayers have the right to know if they are still paying for dirty power, even if it is being sold and used elsewhere. The PUC initially required this level of transparency and it was very useful information. OSSIA asks that this data continue to be made available.

Please support SB 1102 to ensure that Legislative intent and policy is followed. OSSIA and others asked the PUC to create compliance and enforcement mechanisms and they have not¹. This issue has become urgent and the Legislature needs to take action.

Sincerely,

Angela Crowley-Koch
Executive Director

¹ [Order No. 23-061](#), Oregon Public Utility Commission (February 2023) and Docket No. UM 2273, [Energy Advocates Comments](#) (June 2023)