



Senate Committee on Labor and Business  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem Oregon 97301

May 13, 2025

Dear Chair Taylor, Vice-chair Boham, 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-profits, and other solar and storage 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.

While OSSIA strongly supports the intent behind HB 2425 A, enforcing labor laws regarding forced and child labor is an issue best handled at the federal level. OSSIA has concerns regarding both the intent of the task force and the make-up of the task force.

OSSIA and our national organization, the Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA), firmly oppose forced and child labor and have taken steps at the national level to eliminate such practices in solar. Indeed, other countries have followed the leadership of the U.S. solar industry in ending these practices.

SEIA proactively launched the Solar Industry Commitment to Environmental and Social Responsibility in 2013 and a traceability protocol in 2021. The commitment and traceability efforts set industry expectations for human labor rights and protocols for supply chain transparency.

Since then, SEIA has become an American National Standards Institute (ANSI) certified organization, allowing SEIA to develop national solar industry standards. This includes further development of SEIA's traceability protocol.

At the federal level, Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) enforces forced labor law under 19 U.S.C. 1307. This section prohibits products that contain forced labor from entry into the U.S. CBP implements forced labor law through withhold release orders (WROs), the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act



(UFLPA), and other federal laws. CBP enforces forced labor laws for all imported product, including solar products.

The task force created in HB 2425 A is missing several agencies, as several House members noted during the floor discussion regarding this bill. Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industry (BOLI) should certainly be involved in such a task force, as the agency with labor practices expertise. Likewise, Business Oregon should be involved, as the agency that represents Oregon in overseas markets discussion. Lastly, since many agricultural products use forced and child labor AND compete with Oregon agricultural products, the Oregon Department of Agriculture should be included.

OSSIA appreciates the concerns raised by HB 2425 A and the chance to talk about this important issue. Ensuring an ethical supply chain is a top priority for the solar industry and our partners at the national level will continue to work with federal agencies to ensure that solar products are ethically sourced.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,

Angela Crowley-Koch  
Executive Director