



Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

February 9, 2026

Dear Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Brock Smith and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kerry Meade and I'm the Executive Director of Building Potential, a nonprofit trade association representing businesses in Oregon and Washington who support buildings in energy efficiency and building energy use decarbonization. I'm writing to express our strong support for SB 1582 and the amendment.

We believe distributed power plants, also sometimes called virtual power plants, are an essential part of a clean, smart, and resilient electric grid. The technologies customers already have behind the meter — including energy storage, onsite renewable generation, building controls and other building equipment and technologies— provide real value. They help customers manage their energy use and costs, increase resilience, and offer meaningful, measurable grid services that utilities can rely on to manage peak demand and overall system costs.

SB 1582 takes an important step forward by requiring utilities to develop distributed power plant programs that allow customers to participate directly or through third parties, creating pathways for customer-owned and third-party resources to support grid operations while giving customers more control over their energy costs.

We especially appreciate the amendment which include an updated definition of distributed energy resources that recognizes control strategies and operational measures alongside physical technologies. This ensures that participation is not limited to individual devices alone, but can include whole-building approaches, which is critical for enabling commercial buildings and larger facilities to meaningfully participate. This flexibility helps avoid a device-only model and instead allows customers to stack the value of solar, batteries, and in-building strategies such as scheduling and controls to deliver even greater grid benefits.



We view SB 1582 as a strong foundation for advancing customer participation, grid flexibility, and cost-effective decarbonization in Oregon. Building Potential appreciates the collaborative approach taken to refine this legislation, and we look forward to supporting its successful implementation.

Thank you for your leadership and the opportunity to provide comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kerry Meade".

Kerry Meade
Executive Director
Building Potential