



February 11, 2026

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

Re: SB 1582 - SUPPORT

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

Climate Solutions is a regional nonprofit working to accelerate clean energy solutions to the climate crisis. I urge you to support SB 1582, which establishes a clear statewide framework to scale community-based power, including distributed power plants/virtual power plants.

Oregon needs near-term, practical solutions to meet fast-changing energy needs while still being strategic about long-term clean energy investments that protect community health and safety and keep costs down. SB 1582 helps Oregon take better advantage of resources already in our communities, and those that will continue coming online, such as home batteries, electric vehicles, smart thermostats, and other flexible loads. When coordinated and managed together, these resources can reduce peak demand and support the grid during the most expensive and stressful hours, including extreme winter storms and dangerous heat events.

While new clean energy generation and transmission infrastructure will absolutely be part of the solution, relying solely on building large, centralized capacity to cover a small number of extreme hours is costly and inefficient for ratepayers. Scaling distributed energy resources through virtual power plants provides a faster and more cost-effective way to improve reliability in the near term. Community-based power helps meet peak load using energy closer to where it is needed, while also allowing Oregon to make better use of major investments like transmission.

Oregon's utilities have begun to pilot virtual power plant programs, and these efforts show real promise. However, they remain limited in scale and scope and are not yet sized to meet Oregon's growing reliability and affordability needs. SB 1582 gives the Public Utility Commission the direction and flexibility it needs to cost-effectively scale these proven tools into a durable, system-wide reliability resource.

Climate Solutions also supports SB 1582's balanced framework that allows both utilities and third-party aggregators to participate under clear, reasonable rules set by the Oregon Public Utility Commission. This structure enables innovation and scaling while maintaining strong guardrails, including consumer

protections, meaningful customer consent, data privacy standards, and fair access so customers and small businesses can participate without being locked into a single model.

Finally, community-based power delivers strong local economic benefits. These systems are installed and maintained by local electricians, HVAC technicians, and small businesses. By scaling VPPs and other community-based power solutions, SB 1582 helps keep energy dollars in Oregon and supports jobs that cannot be outsourced.

For these reasons, SB 1582 is an important step forward to help lower costs, improve reliability, and give the Public Utility Commission the tools and flexibility it needs to scale community-based power in Oregon.

Sincerely,

Alma Pinto
Oregon Clean Energy Policy Manager
Climate Solutions