

Submitter: Jim Hammett

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1582

For the record, my name is Jim Hammett, and I am writing in strong support of SB 1582.

Oregon's electric grid is facing increasing pressure from aging infrastructure, rising demand, and more frequent extreme-weather disruptions. Distributed solar power is one of the most efficient, cost-effective tools we have to address these challenges. By generating electricity close to where it is consumed, distributed solar reduces transmission losses, eases congestion on long-distance lines, and provides local resilience when centralized infrastructure fails.

This bill recognizes a simple truth: a grid built entirely around large, remote power plants is more vulnerable and more expensive to maintain. Distributed solar, paired with modern inverters and storage, strengthens the grid by diversifying supply and creating thousands of small, flexible points of generation. These systems respond quickly, support voltage stability, and help utilities manage peak demand without costly new transmission projects.

SB 1582 is not about ideology—it is about efficiency, reliability, and smart grid design. It positions Oregon to capture the full value of customer-sited energy resources while reducing long-term costs for ratepayers and improving resilience for rural and urban communities alike.

I urge the committee to advance SB 1582 and help Oregon build a stronger, more reliable, and more distributed energy future.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Jim Hammett

John Day, Oregon