



February 11, 2026

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

Oregon Clean Grid Collaborative's Support for SB 1582 (Community Based Power)

Dear Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Brock Smith, and members of the committee,

The Oregon Clean Grid Collaborative (OCGC) respectfully submits the following testimony in strong support of SB 1582, legislation to scale up Community Based Power in Oregon, also known as Virtual Power Plants (VPPs) or Distributed Power Plants (DPPs).

OCGC represents environmental justice, ratepayer, conservation, labor, and clean energy advocates from across Oregon who are committed to ensuring that Oregon transitions quickly, efficiently, and equitably to clean energy. Specifically, we seek to ensure that grid planning, governance, markets, and investments are aligned to maximize the power of the grid and prioritize reliability; accelerate grid decarbonization; equitably, affordably, and reliably deliver clean energy resources to end users and prioritize community benefits; support meaningful economic development in the region that prioritizes family-wage job creation in Oregon; and minimize impacts to environmental and cultural resources.

At a time when Oregon is facing significant and inevitable load growth, and when many households are already struggling with rising electricity costs, the state must deploy every available tool to maintain reliability and affordability. SB 1582 and Virtual Power Plants offer one such tool. By coordinating existing customer-owned resources such as electric vehicles, smart appliances, rooftop solar and more, VPP's can help reduce peak demand, lower costs, and mitigate the need for expensive new energy infrastructure.

These resources already exist in homes and communities across the state. When coordinated to operate together like a traditional power plant, they can provide grid services for a fraction of the cost of new infrastructure investments, while simultaneously allowing customers to lower their electricity bills.

Virtual Power Plants also enhance grid reliability by helping shave peak loads during times of high stress, including during weather events like heat waves or winter cold snaps. By shaving peak loads, VPP's can reduce price spikes and prevent outages.

State-level guidance, including the Oregon Energy Strategy and recent Executive Orders, have consistently underscored the importance of leveraging customer-side resources to keep costs low and the lights on. SB 1582 moves us in this direction, and for these reasons, the Oregon Clean Grid Collaborative urges the committee to support SB 1582.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.

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