

From: fselker@gmail.com
To: [PUC.PUC.FilingCenter](#) * PUC
Subject: Comment on Community Solar
Date: Friday, July 30, 2021 1:00:55 PM

Please include the following comment:

The legislature created community solar in Oregon because they believe it is in the public interest to expand access to solar power in Oregon. A primary reason is our urgent need to eliminate carbon from our power generation, amplified by the recent law calling for 100% clean by 2040.

Carbon reduction occurs regardless of what types of users sign up, and that pre-eminent goal should be kept in sight. Laudable, but secondary, goals should not impair it's primary purpose and growth. Incidentally, an explicit desire was to help multi-family buildings get solar, since tenants cannot put up their own panels. Those subscribers are a success story. I would say the same of commercial users – they don't have the option to put up panels at many locations, and they are helping reduce emissions. I think that quotas that hinder the program by trying to pick "preferred" customers are inconsistent with the primary purpose, so those should be used very lightly.

Industrial power users complain that this adds to their cost, even though the program is tiny. To them I say the "P" in PUC stands for public, and the public has spoken through legislation that we want the community solar program to be successful. The legislature was fully aware that there would be costs, and changes in cost distribution among users, on this critical journey (happily, evidence is the cost will be lower than once feared).

Utilities may say they now have a mandate to become clean without this. However, they have gone kicking and screaming in that direction, and community solar is one small tool to help us get there - perhaps in spite of them. Their green power options are great, but this is not either-or, we need many tools to help us get there by 2040. If they believe in the publicly mandated goal, they should embrace this small help. Their opposition speaks volumes about their true concerns.

And in any case, the legislature decided they want this to be successful, and it is the PUC's role to ensure that it is regardless of whether utilities or industrial users like it.

Thank you for your consideration,

Frank Selker
Portland, OR

Only 200 years ago, Portland was home to Chinookan People and intact ancient forest and river ecosystems.