



65 Centennial Loop
Eugene, OR 97401
Office: 541-683-2345
Fax: 541-683-2040
www.aesrenew.com
CCB# 160523

02/14/12

To: House Energy, Environment and Water Committee

Regarding: HB 4078-2

MEASURE: HB 4078
EXHIBIT: 25
2012 SESSION H ENERGY, ENV. & WATER
DATE: 2-14-12 PAGES: 1
SUBMITTED BY: Eric Nill

Esteemed Legislators,

I head one of the principal solar contracting companies in Oregon. I wish to express support for sensible land use regulations as they pertain to the construction of new photovoltaic energy facilities on non-farm land and on marginal or non-arable land that is designated for farm use.

Solar power facility developers have long considered areas of our State as very suitable for the establishment of utility-scale solar parks. Oregon is blessed with vast tracts of property with proximity to power transmission lines, an abundance of sunshine, an agreeable climate and we have a solar power industry poised to further manifest this form of economic development. The benefits in terms of job growth and environmental benefits attainable from solar power development are well understood. Among these benefits are high paying family wage construction and manufacturing jobs and the offset of coal and other forms of imported, less environmentally friendly forms of power.

The provisions in HB 4078-2, providing for 250 acre maximum size PV installations and the application of a fair and adequate standard for required wildlife studies will go far in sustaining the prospect for sensible renewable energy development in Oregon. While not without impacts on the acreage where it is to be sited, solar farms can be far less detrimental to the environment and wildlife than many forms of intensive agriculture. Solar facilities can even be removed, in the future, allowing for another form of land use on the site in succeeding decades. Solar farms can also be a means through which already impacted yet marginal farm land can be re-purposed to the great benefit of the community.

Thank you for your considered review of this important topic.

Sincerely,

Eric Nill, Principal
Advanced Energy Systems
Eugene, OR
541-683-2345



Oregon Solar Highway Pilot project at I-5 and I-205