



Gladstone School District 115

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Darwin Dittmar
Business Manager

Subject: HB 2563 Testimony

HB 2563 provides a legal clarification to allow solar equipment, including third-party investment, to be exempt from property taxes. Additionally, the amendment removes obstacles so that:

- Oregon's leadership in sustainability and renewable energy is strengthened.
- Investing in Oregon solar and renewable energy projects is supported.
- The problem of what to do with third-party owned projects already in place is eliminated.
- Public and private sector organizations can foster partnerships to accomplish goals more efficiently and quickly.
- Energy savings can be directed towards the mission of the organization.
- Educational opportunities for Oregon students and citizens will increase.

Gladstone School District's journey of sustainability centered on a K-12 sustainability curriculum to increase embedded sustainability concepts within existing course content, implement new instructional strategies and provide relevant project-based learning options for all students. Projects range from recycling to renewable energy options and more.

In 2007, students and staff challenged the school board to make the Districts bond projects as energy efficient and sustainable as possible. Included in the project planning and design was a goal to include renewable energy in the District's future.

Since then, the District has been working to develop a workable and affordable solar solution. Before HB 3039 created the Feed-In-Tariff (FIT) Pilot Program in 2009, solar was either too expensive or too uncertain regarding future liabilities. Working in partnership with Gerding Edlen Sustainable Solutions, Gladstone and Beaverton School Districts were awarded a total of 600 KWh under the FIT program, which made it economically feasible to attract a third-party investor to fund the project. Kenyon Energy was added to the partnership and agreed to provide the investment necessary to install 100 KW of solar PV at 6 school sites, 3 in each District. Kenyon has installed over 25 school district solar installations across the United States. Kenyon understands the educational opportunities a project like this provides and are supplying valuable software for system monitoring and to enable teachers and students to access and use data from the project in classroom instruction.

The passage of HB 2563 is critical for completion of this and future projects across the state. It will also enable innovative school districts like Gladstone and Beaverton to provide relevant, engaging learning opportunities for students of all ages. The Gladstone School District strongly urges you to support this legislation.

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Board of Directors:

Denis Whittet, *Chair* Rod Cole, *Vice Chair* Denise Browning Susan Cronin Kristin Eaton Leslie Everson Bruce Wadsworth

MEASURE: HB 2563
EXHIBIT: 1
HOUSE REVENUE COMMITTEE
DATE: 6/11/09 PAGES: 1
SUBMITTED BY: CHRISTINE SKELLY/GER