

2/13/2012

RE: HB 4078-2 Amendments

Representative Bailey and Representative Gilliam,

I am employed by an IBEW union contractor based in Portland and work as a solar designer and construction project logistics in the solar industry. Even with Oregon's strong history of support of renewable energy there is still no significant utility scale solar development compared to other states with similar solar resource and available non-arable land.

I appreciate the efforts of SRAC and the Dept of Land Conservation and Development to create reasonable rules for large scale solar in Oregon. However I have some concerns regarding two points in HB4078.

Timing: Utility scale projects can take several years to develop. With the potential expiration of the federal tax credit (ITC) for solar in 2016, Oregon developers have a short term window to bring these projects to commission. The inclusion of additional species studies above and beyond the requirements of the Endangered Species Act may prohibit the ability to complete these projects within this window.

Size restriction: The 100 acre limitation on solar photovoltaic (PV) facilities on non-arable land which is restrictive. I support the proposed amendment to raise the size limit to 250 acres. Prices have dropped in the last two years to a point where larger projects are indeed feasible without state tax credits at a larger scale.

Thank you for your consideration and work on this matter.

Sincerely,



Laurie Hutchinson

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