



Wiring a green tomorrow



**Together, We Urge You to Support
Quality Jobs, Green Energy and Smart Land Use.
Please Pass House Bill 4078 with the -1 and -2 Amendments**

Jobs

Oregon has invested heavily in renewable energy. This bill will remove unnecessary red tape holding back certain projects and will further advance our jobs and energy agenda.

If HB 4078 with the -1 and -2 amendments are passed, it is estimated that four utility-scale solar PV projects will go forward that otherwise would not. Four projects would directly create 280 full time employees and an additional 140 full time jobs in the community for a year. In addition, some 300-400 full time jobs would be created in the supply chain to manufacture the necessary panels, inverters, poles, electrical equipment, etc. There would be 10-15 permanent full time jobs.

All of the jobs in question are quality jobs. We are talking about skilled labor and union wages. These jobs are a perfect way to make use of the skill we have in this state, and further encourage tomorrow's workers to pursue a career in technology, renewable energy, and the building trades.

We unions have embraced green energy and green jobs as a sustainable way to develop Oregon – both environmentally and economically. Now it is up to the legislature to make sure that policies are in alignment with the best interests of Oregonians.

Energy

Promotes the development of clean, renewable utility scale solar projects.

Further advances Oregon's renewable energy agenda and reputation as a state committed to smart, sustainable energy investments.

HB 4078 with the -1 and -2 amendments removes the competitive disadvantage Oregon has imposed on itself by increasing the acreage limitation to 250 acres from 100. This makes solar projects much more commercially viable and thus likely to happen.

The Solar Rules Advisory Committee has a goal to streamline the permitting process for solar PV projects, which is a laudable goal that will increase investment and clean energy development in the state. HB 4078 with the -1 and -2 amendments will make this goal possible by removing unnecessary and counter-productive regulations.

Better Use of Land

Allows for the smart use of land which will otherwise remain fallow.

Cuts the amount of red tape and state bureaucracy that a developer must maneuver around to make good use out of otherwise unused land. Current land use regulations deter investment in rural Oregon. As such, hard-pressed rural areas have not been able to properly benefit from, and partner with, the clean energy companies and activity that have taken root in Portland. Our largest city and economic hub has embraced clean energy as a growth industry. We should pass HB 4078 with the -1 and -2 amendments so as to align the interests of rural Oregon with our urban center, and coordinate the various renewable energy efforts underway in our state. Allows for more local control of land. The land in question has been chosen because it is not high quality farmland. Developing it with renewable energy is a great way to sustainably and sensibly develop the land.

Limits the Red Tape

The LCDC adopted a rule that required solar developers to consider ‘species of concern’ in addition to the endangered, threatened, and candidate species’ they are already required to address. It was neither right nor sensible that solar was singled out and targeted in the first place.

HB 4078 with the -1 and -2 amendments remedies that error by putting solar in the same category as everyone else.

Federal Tax Credit

The solar energy federal tax credit covers up to 30 percent of total costs for any project completed by 2016. Having to address species’ of concern will delay projects by at least a year or more. When you add that time to the time it already takes to get the proper permits and introduce targeted mitigation strategies, it prevents many potential projects from being able to receive the tax credit. I say potential because these projects will not go forward without the tax credit.

Imposing such unnecessary and arbitrary regulations will prevent the projects from happening, and we will lose out on the potential jobs and clean energy production.