



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR, REGION 10
50 FREMONT STREET, SUITE 2450
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105

1 Apr 2013

The Honorable Jules Bailey, Chair
Chair, House Energy and Environment Committee
900 Court St NE, H-274
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Representative Bailey

As the Department of Defense (DoD) Regional Environmental Coordinator (REC) for the states in U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) Region X, including Oregon, and on behalf of all the military services, I am responsible for coordinating responses to various environmental policies and regulatory matters of interest. I appreciate the opportunity to provide comments and support of HB 2941, which proposes to raise the Solar Capacity Standard (SCS).

In recent years, DoD and Oregon have cooperated to ensure state energy policy is compatible with Oregon's continued ability to host sustainable military readiness training. In 2012, for example, my office commented on the Oregon 10-Year Energy Action Plan. This plan provides the DoD opportunities to collaborate with state and other stakeholders to meet Oregon's clean energy infrastructure goals and preserve its critical military facilities and ranges. We believe Oregon HB 2941 presents a similar collaborative opportunity. Amending ORS 757.370 to raise the SCS from 20 MW to 40 MW and requiring the additional 20 MW be attributable to projects located on a site owned or leased by the Oregon Military Department (OMD) will enable the OMD to achieve long-term net zero energy status for its National Guard installations. OMD's renewable energy program supports DoD's energy security goals by furthering our national security interests, supporting military operations, and promoting sustainable installations management, while also helping Oregon meet its renewable energy goals and lead the nation toward energy independence.

DoD cannot achieve its energy security objectives without active participation from National Guard units across the country. In 2011, the U.S. Army selected Oregon as the only National Guard unit to participate in its prestigious Net Zero Installations (NZI) pilot program. Under NZI, Oregon's Army National Guard unit will become the nation's first to achieve net zero energy status. In order to achieve its net zero energy mission, OMD must sell renewable energy produced on agency land to a utility off-taker. If HB 2941 becomes law, OMD will contract with industry partners to develop a generating plant using solar photovoltaic technology producing enough energy to offset OMD's electricity consumption ensuring it reaches its NZI goals.

In closing, we appreciate the efforts of members of the legislature toward the preservation of military mission capabilities within Oregon by requiring consideration of important national security interests.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Mr. Jeffrey Andrews at 206-203-4877. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on this proposed bill.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Clare R. Mendelsohn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

CLARE R. MENDELSON
DoD Regional Environmental Coordinator
Region 10