



Lake County Resources Initiative

A Healthy Economy and Environment based on Sustainable Natural Resources, ensuring Quality of Life for Present and Future Generations

March 29, 2013

Representative Jules Bailey
House Energy and Environment Committee
900 Court St. NE, Room 453
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Honorable Bailey:

I am writing to encourage you to vote for House Bill 2941 to require public utilities to purchase 20 MW of solar power from the Oregon National Guard.

Lake County Commissioner Brad Winters and I were co-conveners of the Oregon Solutions to utilize the Backscatter Radar site near Christmas Valley for production of solar energy. While there has been controversy for solar sites in the Christmas Valley there are no known objections to utilizing the Backscatter site.

Lake County is 78% government owned land and 22% of the land has to support the government programs desired by the public. Potentially having a 20MW solar farm built at the Backscatter site could generate around \$100,000.00 in new taxes for the State and local taxing districts. Lake County is very remote and attracting business here is very difficult. The one thing we do have is power line capacity and ample sun. Part of Lake County's economic development strategy is to attract biomass, geothermal, solar, wind and small hydro companies to build power production facilities. This strategy will create over 200 permanent jobs and in excess of \$5 million in new tax revenue.

Thank you both for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

James K. Walls
Executive Director