



April 1, 2013

Representative Jules Bailey, Chair
House Committee on Energy and Environment
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE, Room 347
Salem, Oregon 97301
anne.may@state.or.us

Re: HB 2941

Chairman Bailey and Members of the Committee:

Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA) provides the following testimony on HB 2941 concerning solar photovoltaic generation on lands owned or leased by the Oregon Military Department. We thank you for your efforts to address the need for renewable energy generation while remaining mindful of the land use and ecological considerations associated with the development of generation sites.

ONDA wishes to express its support for a probable outcome of HB 2941; namely the development of a solar photovoltaic generation facility at the Oregon Military Department Christmas Valley site formerly used as a backscatter radar installation. While HB 2941 does not directly address use of this site for renewable energy generation it is ONDA's understanding that, if enacted into law, HB 2941 would facilitate as much as 20MW of solar generation at this site. ONDA has closely tracked many different efforts to develop renewable energy in southeastern Oregon and from this experience has developed a set of guidelines by which the siting of renewable energy generation facilities can be evaluated. These guidelines include elements such as proximity to existing transmission lines, avoidance of sensitive wildlife habitat, minimized social conflict and siting on already degraded or marginal lands. The Christmas Valley site meets many, if not all, of these criteria and is a prime example of an area where renewable energy generation should be targeted.

While ONDA is aware that HB 2941 addresses solar photovoltaic generating capacity standards for electric utilities we comment only on the positive aspects of the land use likely to result at the Oregon Military Department Christmas Valley site. We are unable to provide testimony on the desirability of allocating renewable generation capacity to the Oregon Military Department. We appreciate your consideration of this testimony and whether through HB 2941 or another mechanism we look forward to the productive use of the Oregon Military Department's Christmas Valley site for beneficial, low-conflict renewable energy generation.

Sincerely,
/s/ Dan Morse
Conservation Director
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