



HB 2820

Chairman Clem and Members of the Committee,

For the record my name is Varner Seaman, Policy Director at Renewable Northwest Project. This testimony is in support of HB 2820.

First, renewable energy development has been a tremendous success story for rural Oregon. In communities with large amounts of wind, such as Sherman County, the economic benefits are clear. Jobs are created, tax revenue increases, local spending multiplies. In Sherman County the local tax base has gone from \$150 million in assessed value to roughly \$1.7 billion.

Renewable energy projects have brought investment in new fire trucks, libraries, school computer labs, high school tracks and more.

HB 2820 is a modest step towards improving the options for permitting additional renewable energy facilities.

This is a narrow piece of legislation that simply raises the threshold on the size of projects that can be permitted at the county level, based on the type of farmland the project would be located on.

This bill does not change Oregon's land use system or change the requirements relative to goal 3. It simply says that some projects that cannot currently be permitted at the county level would have the option to do so.

Again, this is a very modest step, and we encourage you to vote yes on HB 2820.

Thank you.

Varner Seaman
Policy Director
Renewable Northwest Project

3Degrees
American Wind Energy Assoc.
Blattner Energy
Bonneville Environmental
Foundation
BP Wind Energy
Calpine
Center for Energy Efficiency &
Renewable Technologies
Christenson Electric
Citizens' Utility Board
Climate Solutions
Columbia Gorge
Community College
Community Renewable
Energy Association
E.ON Climate & Renewables
EDF Renewable Energy
EDP Renewables
Element Power
Environment Oregon
Environment Washington
Eurus Energy America
EverPower
FirstWind
Gaelectric
Gamesa Energy USA
GE Energy
Geothermal
Resources Council
GL Garrad Hassan
Green Mountain Energy
Iberdrola Renewables
Jones Stevedoring
Kapla Law PLLC
Lane Powell PC
MAP
Montana Environmental
Information Center
MontPIRG
Natural Capital Partners
Natural Resources
Defense Council
NaturEner
NextEra Energy Resources
Northwest Environmental
Business Council
Northwest SEED
NW Energy Coalition
Oregon Tech
Oregon Solar Energy
Industries Association
OSPIRG
Portland Energy
Conservation, Inc.
REC Silicon
REpower USA
RES America Developments
Solar Oregon
SolarCity
Stoel Rives, LLP
SunPower Corporation
SWCA Environmental Consultants
Tonkon Torp LLP
Vestas Americas
Warm Springs Power &
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