



Bureau of Planning and Sustainability

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February 19, 2013

Representative Bailey, Chair
House Committee on Energy and Environment
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Chair Bailey and Members of the Committee:

The City of Portland supports HB 2796, which allows customer-generators to aggregate electricity generated by multiple net metering facilities if those net metering facilities are served by the same electric utility. Solar energy presents a major opportunity to advance Portland's economic development strategy and climate protection efforts, and we support removing barriers to solar installation.

The ability to aggregate multiple sites for the purpose of net metering renewable projects is a significant step forward for clean energy. The present rules only allow for meter aggregation if those meters are on the same property. With the advent of smart meters, the utilities are gaining new capabilities that make meter aggregation much easier and less costly.

The proposed legislation will optimize siting of renewable energy facilities. The proposed change allows for designing the right size for the renewable facility and offers the potential for better economies of scale and lower renewable power costs. The proposed rules are much more customer-oriented, opening the door for more local renewable energy generation.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Michael Armstrong
Policy, Research and Operations Manager



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