

Dear Representative Doherty and Members of the Committee,

I am a Portland area CPA and business consultant urging you to pass SB 1520. I prepare taxes for a Washington Energy Cooperative and have seen firsthand how these community energy projects come together with hundreds of people making modest investments to purchase a valuable asset for the community that saves them money, reduces pollution, and addresses real energy needs while increasing community cohesion, livability, and pride.

Since I started my firm in 2008, I have talked with at least ½ dozen different teams/companies looking to start some type of community energy cooperative and all have been stymied by the legal hurdles. Imagine the innovation and vitality we'd experience if these visionaries could get these small scale projects completed.

As a CPA, I have a strong appreciation for securities law though believe these investments should be exempt due to the limited size of the investments and the high cost of securities regulations which alone, make these vital projects uneconomical due to unnecessary legal fees.

Please feel free to call me if you have any questions. I urge a yes vote on SB 1520 and look forward to its passage.

Respectfully,

Brian C. Setzler, CPA
MBA in Sustainable Business