



1536 SE 11th Ave., Ste. B | [Info@EnvironmentOregon.org](mailto:Info@EnvironmentOregon.org)  
Portland, OR 97214 | P (503) 231-1986  
[www.EnvironmentOregon.org](http://www.EnvironmentOregon.org) | F (503) 231-4007

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**TO:** Representative Jessica Vega Pederson, Chair, House Committee on Energy and Environment  
Members, House Committee on Energy and Environment

**FR:** Rikki Seguin, Lead Advocate, Environment Oregon

**RE:** Support of HB 2447

As the Lead Advocate for Environment Oregon, I represent over 40,000 members and supporters in support of repowering Oregon with solar energy. Environment Oregon is a statewide, citizen-based, environmental advocacy organization.

**We support HB 2447 as one of the key steps Oregon should take toward repowering with clean, renewable solar energy.** This bill will extend Oregon's residential energy tax credit, a key tax credit used by homeowners across the state to help pay for solar panel installation costs. **HB 2447 represents a consensus work group decision** that included solar advocates, Oregon homeowners, and Oregon businesses.

Each of Environment Oregon's 40,000 members and supporters could serve to benefit from the extension of these tax credits, whether from installing solar panels and receiving the tax credit, or from breathing cleaner air thanks to less coal in Oregon's electricity mix. Oregon homeowners need a stable and consistent program in order to continue to invest in clean, solar solutions.

When it comes to clean energy, Oregon should be a leader not a follower. If we're serious about reducing our dependence on dirty and dangerous fuels, there is no question: we have to tap into the power of the sun. However, right now, less than 1 percent of our energy comes from the sun, when we could be generating power on Oregon homes, office buildings, schools, warehouses, and retail stores. According to a recent Environment America Research and Policy Center report, over 370,000 of Oregon's residential rooftops could host solar panels.<sup>1</sup> With the federal residential renewable energy tax credit set to expire at the end of 2016, the passage of this bill is essential to the continued growth of Oregon's rooftop solar market.

Our dependence on dirty fossil fuels is fueling pollution that threatens our health, our environment and our future. To cut ties with our dangerous addiction to dirty energy, we have to tap into the power of the sun. And Oregon should be leading the way on solar, not lagging behind. **HB 2447 is one key step toward repowering Oregon with solar energy that doesn't pollute, never runs out, and puts Oregonians to work.**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony to the committee.

Sincerely,  
Rikki Seguin, Lead Advocate

<sup>1</sup> Environment Oregon Research and Policy Center, *Star Power: The Growing Role of Solar Energy in America*, November 2014. Available online:  
[http://environmentamerica.org/sites/environment/files/reports/EA\\_Star\\_Power.pdf](http://environmentamerica.org/sites/environment/files/reports/EA_Star_Power.pdf)