



Statement in Support of Continuing the RETC

10 Feb 2015

I am Laura Uhler, I own Solar Ki, a solar electric design & installation company that operates in the central Willamette Valley and coast. My background is that of an engineer and engineering manager – I worked in the semiconductor industry for over 25 years before starting my company in the solar field. I'm here to testify of the multiple benefits that the RETC provides to our state.

First, it provides **good, local jobs in our communities**. My business model is such that I partner/subcontract with a local union shop to provide electricians for my installations, and a green-building construction company to provide skilled workers for construction and roof-sealing. A few years ago, when the whole housing and construction industry was depressed, it was great to be able to provide work to both of those local companies, and they are still happy to have that work now. In addition, I have hired about a half dozen employees myself. I provide work for the local accounting firm that does my payroll, the local graphics arts company to provide equipment plaques and customer signs, the local print shop to service my printing needs, often a local distributor to provide hardware and equipment, many times Oregon-made solar panels from SolarWorld in Hillsborough, and the list goes on. The jobs provide for what I see as infrastructure upgrades to allow existing homes to use clean renewable energy – and, the **money from that investment gets recirculated into the local economy**.

That leads me to the second advantage: the **use of a good sound technology to enable a very positive environmental impact**. With excellent organizations like the Energy Trust and good oversight by the Oregon Dept of Energy we are able to install quality installations, the systems producing clean renewable energy for 40-50+ years. It's a proven technology and the systems that produced power in the 60's are still generating power. We are blessed to live in such a profoundly beautiful state and PV is a very long-lived stable technology that has shown to have a positive environmental impact that can leverage our existing electrical infrastructure. We create clean renewable energy for this generation and the next.

Lastly, the **tax credit goes to tax-paying Oregonians who are willing to make a significant financial investment of their own, in order to generate clean power**.

Thus, I urge you to support the RETC: it provides good local jobs, and the money continues to recirculate into our local communities; it uses good sound technology to upgrade our infrastructure in order to realize a positive environmental impact. I urge you to extend your support the RETC which will allow for clean, renewable energy for a future generation of Oregonians.

Thank You,

Laura Uhler , Owner, Solar Ki, LLC