



OREGON CHAPTER SIERRA CLUB

1821 SE ANKENY ST • PORTLAND, OR 97214

PHONE (503) 238-0442 • FAX (503) 238-6281

OREGON.CHAPTER@SIERRACLUB.ORG

WWW.OREGON.SIERRACLUB.ORG

To: Members of the House Energy and Environment Committee

From: Rhett Lawrence, Oregon Chapter Sierra Club

Date: February 10, 2015

RE: House Bill 2447

Chair Vega Pederson and Members of the Committee: Good afternoon, my name is Rhett Lawrence and I'm the Conservation Director for the Oregon Chapter of the Sierra Club. Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. On behalf of our more than 20,000 members and supporters in Oregon, I wanted to offer our enthusiastic support for House Bill 2447.

As an organization with a long history working in support of renewable energy in Oregon, we believe the Residential Energy Tax Credit (RETC) is critical to the expansion of solar power in our state. Since 2011, the Sierra Club has operated its "Go Solar" program to line up interested households with solar installers and ensure that they have access to all available incentives. And even though the cost of installed solar generation has declined significantly in the last decade, we find that the upfront installation costs still keep solar power out of reach for the average household. Without an extension of the RETC, that situation would escalate even further.

For this reason, we strongly support extending the availability of the RETC through House Bill 2447. Solar energy is playing an increasingly important role in our state's renewable energy mix, and solar technology presents a wealth of job creation opportunities for our economy. We believe the RETC is critical to keeping that important momentum going, so we respectfully urge this Committee to pass House Bill 2447.

Thank you very much for considering my comments and I'd be happy to answer any questions.