



To: Chair Jessica Vega-Pederson, House Energy and Environment Committee
From: Kevin Keene - SolarWorld

Re: HB 2745 and HB 2941

Date: March 3, 2015

Via Email: Rep.JessicaVegaPederson@state.or.us

On behalf of SolarWorld's 700 plus employees in Hillsboro, and our local supply chain, distributors and installers, I sincerely thank you for considering these bills. Oregon is in the unique position to generate its own clean-renewable electricity from the sun using locally made solar panels, benefiting all Oregonians now and for generations to come.

The old paradigm used to be waging the economy vs. our ecology. With a thriving solar industry, the two can come together harmoniously to provide living wage jobs, savings on electricity and reduced pollution from burning coal and fossil fuels.

Since 2008, SolarWorld has invested more \$347M in goods and services from Oregon, plus another \$750M on the Hillsboro, OR manufacturing plant. This year we will be adding 200 more living wage jobs as part of our expansion.

For every dollar invested in solar, using locally made solar panels, installed by a local company, 85 cents stays in the Oregon economy. And significantly more if you factor in the multiplication effect it creates by keeping our money local.

HB 2745 - **Solar Feed-In-Tariff** - is uniquely Oregon and allows independent minded Oregonians the ability to control their utility bills.

HB 2941 - **Community Solar Gardens** - would open access to solar energy allowing anyone, regardless of whether or not they can put solar panels on their roof, to own and control their own renewable energy generation. By doing so, Oregonians can choose their own energy future.

With great pride, we can tell our grand-children that we did our part to keep Oregon a great place to live. I support these bills and thank Chair Vega-Pederson. We urge you to pass the bills and allow all Oregonians the chance to access their own clean energy.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Keene".

Kevin Keene
SolarWorld