

To: Oregon House Committee on Energy and the Environment

From: Doug Boleyn, P.E. (ret)

Re: House Bill 2745 – On Committee Agenda March 3, 2015

Dear Committee Members:

My name is Doug Boleyn. I am a retired Professional Engineer who spent my entire working career in solar energy work. For the last decade, I have been working with *churches* to help them access energy efficiency technologies and solar energy technologies. Many churches see the use of solar energy technology as a means to express “care for creation” as well as provide affordable clean energy for their church buildings.

What has been most helpful for churches to access solar energy in the last several years has been the VIR (FIT) programs offered by the investor-owned utilities. This Program offers for churches a more affordable and accessible means to acquire solar energy systems. Churches and non-profits do not have *tax liability*, and therefore cannot access tax credits in order to help them acquire solar energy systems affordably. The VIR programs provide the assurance of long term returns that churches and their solar energy system providers need to make a viable project.

I urge the Committee to continue the VIR program through the utilities, especially for the sake of churches and other non-profits who otherwise cannot benefit from tax-related incentives. These institutions deserve this continuing means to keep solar affordable and accessible to their church buildings and their members.

Thank you for your attention.

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