

March 2, 2015

Representative Jessica Vega Pederson
Chair, House Committee on Energy and Environment

re: support for HB 2941

Dear Chair Vega Pederson:

Renewable Northwest, a diverse member organization that is dedicated to the responsible development of renewable resources in Oregon and throughout the Pacific Northwest, is pleased to support HB 2941, a bill to establish a community solar gardens program. HB 2941 allows Oregonians who may not have solar friendly rooftops to reap the financial benefits of distributed renewable energy.

Solar energy is playing an increasingly important role in helping Oregon achieve a clean energy future for its citizens. As of 2013, Oregon has seen over \$1.6 billion in total solar investments made, with over 8000 installations of solar systems, including residential, commercial, and utility scale applications for a total of 85 megawatts of capacity.

HB 2941 allows a pool of 10 or greater subscribers to receive credit for electricity generated by a community solar garden project. Under a recently submitted amendment to HB 2941, the Oregon Public Utility Commission (PUC) would establish the amount and production rates for a utility's procurement of electricity from a solar garden project, consistent with the existing Volumetric Incentive Rate (VIR) program. Renewable Energy Certificates associated with a utility's procurement of energy from a community solar garden project would also be transferred to the utility, which could then use them for compliance with Oregon's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS). Subscribers, as well as receiving the financial benefits of distributed renewable energy, would be contributing towards their utility's compliance with the state's renewable energy goals.

As consumer interest in distributed energy generation, and solar energy in particular, continues to rise, Renewable Northwest is pleased to support HB 2941. This bill promotes increased consumer access to the benefits of renewable energy and is an important step towards a resilient and diverse clean energy future.

Sincerely,

Hillary Barbour
Policy Director
Renewable Northwest

3Degrees
American Wind Energy Association
Atkins
Blattner Energy
Bonneville Environmental
Foundation
Center for Energy Efficiency &
Renewable Technologies
Christenson Electric
Citizens' Utility Board of Oregon
Climate Solutions
Columbia Gorge
Community College
Community Renewable
Energy Association
DNV GL
EDF Renewable Energy
EDP Renewables
Environment Oregon
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Eurus Energy America
EverPower
FirstWind
GE Energy
Geothermal
Resources Council
Green Mountain Energy
HDR Engineering, Inc.
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