



Mar. 2, 2015

Honorable Jessica Vega Pederson, Chair
House Committee on Energy and Environment
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Or 97301

RE: House Bill 2745 Solar systems in Oregon

Dear Chair Vega Pederson and Members of the Energy and Environment Committee:

Supporting solar in Oregon is an important part of supporting a clean energy future, especially in Beaverton. HB 2745 and feed in tariffs (FIT) in particular have been shown to be the most effective policy for increasing renewable energy worldwide. We have seen this locally with the success of the Solar Pilot Program within the City of Beaverton and the Beaverton School District.

The Beaverton School district is saving \$18,000 annually in energy costs due to the ability to use FIT funding. Additionally, students now have the added ability to monitor their on-site solar system online, in-class and teachers have a new tool to integrate solar energy into their curriculum.

Many organizations throughout Beaverton have benefited from public private partnerships to install solar for their buildings. The Sexton Mountain solar project, set to begin construction at the end of this month, is an example of city-owned land being leased to a private developer to install a 433 kW system with an estimated \$843,000 benefit to the city over the life of the panels from reduced electricity costs. I also encourage you to support the development of community solar projects that would allow homeowners unable to install solar on their own homes to invest in and receive benefits from solar installations in their community. The City of Beaverton is eager to bring more solar into our community and we urge the committee to pass this important legislation in order to make that possible.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stevie Freeman-Montes". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Stevie Freeman-Montes
Sustainability Program Coordinator