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March 2, 2015

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

FR: Rikki Seguin, Lead Advocate, Environment Oregon

RE: Support of HB 2745 and HB 2941-1

As the lead advocate for Environment Oregon, I represent over 40,000 members and supporters in support of repowering Oregon with solar energy. Environment Oregon is a statewide, citizen-based, environmental advocacy organization. **We support HB 2745 and HB 2941-1 as two of the key steps Oregon should take toward a clean energy future.**

These two bills will help to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels that contribute to global warming and are two puzzle pieces that fit well into Oregon's overall solar power landscape. HB 2745 is beneficial to residential- and commercial-scale solar projects, HB 2941-1 is beneficial to commercial-scale projects, and both fit seamlessly with other pro-solar legislation being discussed this session.

Each of Environment Oregon's 40,000 members and supporters will serve to benefit from the extension of the Solar Pilot Program (HB 2745) and the establishment of community solar gardens qualifications (HB 2941-1), whether from personal installation of solar panels or from breathing cleaner air thanks to less coal in Oregon's electricity mix. Oregon homeowners and businesses need stable and consistent programs in order to continue to invest in clean, solar solutions.

For years, Environment Oregon members have been calling for more solar power, and HB 2745 and HB 2941-1 are two key pieces of legislation that will help meet this call. From January to May 2015, our citizen outreach team will knock on over 10,000 doors across Oregon, educating Oregonians from all walks of life on these key pieces of legislation and opportunities to take action.

Since January 2015, Environment Oregon has enlisted over 3,000 Oregonians to support several pro-solar policies, including HB 2745 and HB 2941-1.

Key numbers include:

- 2,960 positive public comments** from Oregonians across the state.
- 32 endorsements from Oregon businesses**, including **Tofurky**, headquartered in Hood River, and **Keen Footwear**, headquartered in NW Portland.
- 29 endorsements from mayors, city councilors, and county commissioners** statewide, including Eugene, Astoria, Roseburg, Lane County, and Hood River County.

In order to make Oregon's Solar Pilot Program even stronger, and to ensure the most "bang for our buck," Environment Oregon will be supporting possible amendments to HB 2745 that will:

- increase overall program capacity
- increase overall program target rate impact
- shift program focus from residential- to commercial-scale solar projects
- include a capacity carve-out for community solar projects

When it comes to clean energy, Oregon should be a leader not a follower. If we're serious about reducing our dependence on dirty and dangerous fuels, there is no question: we must tap into the power of the sun. However, right now, less than 1 percent of our energy comes from the sun, when we could be generating power on Oregon homes, office buildings, schools, warehouses, and retail stores. This is not only the correct choice for our environment, but for the tens of thousands of Oregonians calling for a clean energy future.

Oregon should be leading the way on solar power, not lagging behind. **HB 2745 and HB 2941-1 are two key steps toward repowering Oregon with solar energy that doesn't pollute, never runs out, and puts Oregonians to work.**

Sincerely,
Rikki Seguin, Lead Advocate