



SOL COAST CONSULTING AND DESIGN, L.L.C.

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Dear Representative Holvey,

Your legislation requiring 1.5% of new public construction be dedicated to solar technologies is important to our industry. Not only does it show that Oregon is forward looking and want to take a lead in environmental stewardship, it also demonstrates Oregon's commitment to building a solar industry in the state. The legislation has made Oregon attractive for the solar manufacturing industry but has also supported the local solar industry as it grows and put Oregonians to work while keeping more of our energy dollars in state.

The goal of the solar industry is to continue to reduce cost of installed solar systems while at the same time providing a durable product that will still be providing power for the next generation. As hard costs continue to decrease, such as solar panel costs, soft costs still provide barriers as the public, utilities, regulators, and inspectors learn to appropriately adapt to this new technology. The 1.5% is providing the bridge that allows the solar industry to gain the experience and acceptance that is needed for solar system to provide sound contributions to the regions energy mix.

There are now many new public building that have incorporated solar into their building and this has the added benefit of bringing the energy considerations to the forefront in building decisions. In the long-term, the energy needed to operate the building is reduce and the public health is improved by providing cleaner air than would exist of coal and natural gas were used to produce the power. The day will come when other uses of fossil fuels will make burning them look foolish. The 1.5% for solar in public building is the logic way to make the gradual transition without spiking the cost of energy.

My company, Sol Coast Consulting & Design,LLC, is a woman owned emerging small business based in a HUD and regularly employs 5 people in the solar industry with project based surging of up to 6 additional electricians from our local IBEW hall.



IBEW Journeyman Installing Solar at Coos County Head Start

The 1.5% solar in public building is important to us because it enables us to maintain employment of skilled workers when the incentives for solar installation fluctuate as well as improve the public understanding of solar technologies as reliable, integrated components of efficient and functional public buildings. The photograph below is of an 84kW system initiated due to the 1.5% for solar requirement that now supplies electricity to the Coos County Food Share freeing up annual operating funds equivalent to 38 tons of food to add to our public pantry.





Oregon Coast Community Action/Coos County Food Share

As a case in point, our Coos Bay Fire Station #1 provides a beautiful example of solar technology and serves as a public meeting space for non-profit groups and organizations in addition to the primary service of providing emergency support services. The solar thermal systems provide 3/4 of the annual water heating needs for this critical support facility with an additional 20% of the electricity produced onsite. This solar electric generation also provides extended operating flexibility in the event of a utility down as the solar compliments back-up generator supplies during this scenario. Given the projected 3 – 6 months of lost electricity during the anticipated 9.0 earthquake – systems like this provide us not only with daily operational benefits but increased levels of resiliency in the face of a natural catastrophe.



Coos Bay Fire Station #1, LEED Gold

Please do not erode the support for the solar industry that the 1.5% for solar provides by continuing to add other technologies to the legislation. This is especially true for technologies that have existed in one form or another for a long time.

Please let me know what you and your colleagues are doing to preserve the 1.5% for solar from other industries hijacking the legislation.

Respectfully yours,

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Principal & Founder

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Energy Analyst

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