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March 4, 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: Opposition of HB 2833

Environment Oregon is a statewide, citizen-based, environmental advocacy organization. On behalf of our over 40,000 members and supporters across the state, **Environment Oregon opposes HB 2833.**

Repowering Oregon with clean, solar energy is a top priority for the Environment Oregon membership, and ORS 279C.527 has been critical for the growth of the solar energy market in Oregon. HB 2833 would qualify woody biomass as a “green energy technology,” and would stunt the growth of Oregon’s solar energy market.

For many years, federal and state policies have promoted biomass energy as a “clean” and “renewable” source of energy. Over that same period, however, numerous scientific studies have shown that burning woody biomass is neither “clean” nor “carbon neutral” within a timeframe relevant to addressing climate change.

ORS 279C.527 helps to support Oregon’s clean, carbon neutral, solar energy market, and we oppose the addition of woody biomass to the qualifying technology.

Sincerely,