



Energy Design

The sun is rising on a new energy future

3/4/2015

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 the cost of installed solar systems while at the same time provide a durable product that will continue to provide power for the next generation. As hard costs such as solar panel costs continue to decrease, soft costs are still 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 region's energy mix.

There are now many new public buildings that have had solar incorporated 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 reduced and the public health is improved by providing cleaner air than would exist if 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, Energy Design, employs 6 people in the solar industry in Eugene.

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.

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,

Vincent McClellan, President/Owner