

To: Vega Pederson, Chair, House Energy and Environment Committee

Re: HB 2745

Date: March 3, 2015

My name is Dan Orzech. I'm a solar developer, and I live in Corvallis. I'm also on the board of OREP, Oregonians for Renewable Energy Progress. Last year, the Oregon legislature passed SB1520, which enables renewable energy cooperatives in the state. I am now in the process of launching a coop to do solar projects, and I'm very pleased to tell you that there is a tremendous amount of interest in the coop model for community solar projects.

Renewable energy cooperatives are the mechanism for allowing Oregon citizens to invest in solar projects in their communities. But the coop does not change the fundamental economics of solar projects. To make coop projects, support such as the Feed In Tariff is necessary.

The Feed In Tariff has been particularly effective in enabling Oregon schools to install solar. Two thirds of solar panels on Oregon schools and universities were installed with the help of the Feed In Tariff. I am talking with a number of schools which are very interested in using the coop model to install solar.

I urge you to support HB 2745, to allow the renewable energy cooperatives to reach their full potential of putting solar on the roofs of Oregon schools and other community institutions.

Thank you.