

Representative Jessica Vega-Pederson
Chair House Energy and Environment Committee
District 47, Portland
Via email: Rep.JessicaVegaPederson@state.or.us

Dear Chair Vega-Pederson

Please include this as testimony for the March 12, 2015 hearing:

ORS 279C.527, Inclusion of amount for green energy technology in public improvement contract is a good law and shouldn't be diluted in its purpose to help Oregon reduce greenhouse gasses and encouraging distributed generation of energy.

I oppose HB 2833 which adds woody biomass as a green energy technology for which a contractor must set aside 1.5% of the cost to construct public buildings.

I do not oppose the use of woody by-products for energy generation, but do think that it should not be coupled with this law. Solar passive design, solar thermal, geothermal, and solar electric are proven to be increasingly important in shifting away from carbon-based fuels. Once a building is constructed with one or more of these simple technologies, the input from outside energy sources is reduced, sometimes to zero or better, whereas with biofuels, the input must be maintained. For any resident on this planet who has experienced disruptions to normal energy flow, from occasional minor storms to major earthquakes, these buildings will be the vanguards of resiliency, not those that need more fuel from near or afar, especially when transportation is interrupted.

In my home town of Coos Bay, solar energy is making its way. Thanks in large part to a small tenaciously community-minded company, there are now many installations of solar on residential, commercial, and newly built public buildings that have incorporated solar into their design. And thanks to ORS 279C.527 these buildings were able to add energy systems that rely on the sun rather than trucked-in fuels. That is especially important for a town preparing rationally for the eventual effects of a subduction zone earthquake and the annual pounding from the Northwest's spectacular storms. I wouldn't live anywhere else!

Please do not erode the support for the solar industry that the 1.5% program provides by continuing to add other less green technologies to the legislation.

Sincerely,

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