

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

Dear Chair Vega-Pederson,

We oppose HB 2833, which adds woody biomass to the types of green energy technology for which a contracting agency must set aside 1.5-percent of the contract price to include in public buildings.

The law was originally designed and dedicated to solar and geothermal technologies and is vital to an industry currently experiencing exponential growth in our communities. Currently, HB 2833 shows that Oregon is forward-looking, with a commitment to building a solar industry in the state, and a dedication to taking a lead in environmental stewardship. Adding woody biomass to the 1.5-percent program would contradict these gains and fall short of Oregon values.

The goal of the solar industry is to continue to reduce costs of installed solar systems while at the same time providing a durable product that will continue to provide clean energy for generations to come. As the owner of a local solar installation firm, I have seen first hand how decreasing hard costs coupled with technological improvements has allowed the solar industry to expand our reach, and the 1.5-percent program helps to provide that scale.

There are numerous new public buildings that have prioritized energy considerations in building decisions and consequently incorporated solar into their buildings. These decisions lower energy costs and pollution outputs, thereby improving air quality and benefitting public health.

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

Respectfully yours,

John Grieser
Owner, Elemental Energy