



SOL COAST CONSULTING AND DESIGN, L.L.C.

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To: Chair Edwards, Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee

From: Sol Coast Consulting & Design, LLC

Re: SB 477

Date: March 24, 2015

My company, Sol Coast Consulting & Design, LLC, is a woman-owned, emerging small business based in a HUD. I regularly employ 5 people in the solar industry, with project-based hiring that surges to 6 additional electricians from our local IBEW hall.

Sol Coast Companies have been replacing imported electricity with renewable energy on the Oregon Coast since 2003. Our installations have improved our economy by reducing annual electricity bills for coastal families and businesses by over \$65,000 each year while contributing over one million dollars in living wages to coastal solar workers.

SB 477 will open the doors to large scale solar installations on the Oregon coast-- installations that will benefit our local economy immediately. Adding to our existing inventory of renewable energy generation will enable our solar professionals and electricians to continue to support their families. The additional projects will also contribute to the Oregon economy because we only install SolarWorld modules manufactured in the USA, and employ IBEW electricians.

In addition, the solar energy generators can be integrated with energy storage facilities in the future. This will result in a more self-reliant, resilient Oregon Coast in case the worst happens. All of our installations include critical AC outlets in the event of a utility outage. Economic growth and emergency preparedness all while mitigating our impact on climate change.



IBEW Journeyman at Coos County Head Start



Oregon Coast Community Action/Coos County Food Share

Our Coos Bay Fire Station #1 provides a beautiful example of solar technology in action. It serves as a public meeting space in addition to providing a home for emergency services. The solar thermal systems



provide 75% of the annual water heating needs for this critical support facility, with an additional 20% of the electricity produced onsite. That saves taxpayers money. The solar electric generation also provides extended operating flexibility in the event a power outage. The solar power compliments back-up generator supplies in an emergency. Given a projected 3 -6 months of lost electricity during the anticipated 9.0 earthquake, systems like this provide us daily benefits **and** increased levels of resiliency in the face of a natural catastrophe.

Coos Bay Fire Station #1, LEED Gold

I support SB 477 and urge you to pass the bills and allow all Oregonians the right to access their clean energy.

Sincerely,

Shannon Souza, PE
Principal & Founder
Sol Coast Companies