

March 24, 2014
Salem, Oregon

truesouth

S O L A R

Dear Mr. Chairman and Fellow Committee Members,

I'm writing today in support of SB 477, the Coal to Clean Energy transition bill. It is a commonsense policy to transition Oregon off of dirty coal to cleaner, renewable energy sources. This shift is good for our environment and it is great for our local economy.

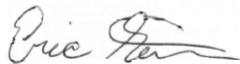
In Southern Oregon, the opportunity for solar-powered energy is expansive and means bringing well-paying, long-term jobs to our community. In the last 5 years, the cost of solar panels has dropped by 80% nationwide¹, making clean power more accessible than ever. Meanwhile, the cost of the old way of doing things has already started to rise. As an Oregonian, I do not think we should have to pay millions of dollars to update and upgrade polluting, coal-burning power plants in other states. We have abundant natural resources for creating clean power in our backyard.

My team at True South Solar works everyday to install quality solar power systems in homes and businesses all over the Rouge Valley. Companies like ours pay a living wage and the work we do is fulfilling. Helping Oregonians create home-grown electricity without polluting the air is a good feeling.

Most people agree that Oregon should stop buying power from coal-fired plants. Anyone who has spent a hazy summer day in Southern Oregon knows how hard it can be to breathe with pollution floating around in the air. Coal power bad for us as a country. Someone driving an electric car in Ashland, who gets his or her electricity from PacifiCorp., still pollutes as much as a gasoline car running at less than 40 mpg². Clean power-- from start to finish-- means shifting off of polluting electricity.

At True South Solar, we're building a more sustainable Southern Oregon. We call it a rooftop revolution. I want to see renewable energy take off statewide. According to data from the Department of Energy, even a fraction of Oregon's clean energy potential can create enough power for all of our homes and businesses. There are projects waiting for room in the market to get started. As a state, we can do this. As a state, we should do this.

Sincerely,



Eric Hanson
Co-owner and General Manager
True South Solar
Ashland, OR



¹ The Vote Solar Initiative <http://votesolar.org/fact-room/fast-facts/>

² Pacific Power in Oregon supplies ⅓ of its electricity from out-of-state coal-fired power plants.
<http://www.wsj.com/news/interactive/CHARGERS0830>