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March 25, 2015

**TO:** Senator Chris Edwards, Chair, Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources  
Members, Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

**FR:** Charlie Fisher, Clean Energy Advocate, Environment Oregon

**RE:** Support of SB 477

As the clean energy advocate for Environment Oregon, I represent over 40,000 members and supporters in support of repowering Oregon with clean, renewable energy. Environment Oregon is a statewide, citizen-based, environmental advocacy organization.

**We support SB 477 as a critical step to transition Oregon off of dirty and dangerous fossil fuels and toward a clean energy future.**

It's becoming clearer than ever that climate change is a real threat to the health of Oregon communities and families across the state, whether due to more intense and frequent forest fires or extreme summer drought. Removing coal from Oregon's energy mix and replacing it with clean energy sources like wind and solar would be a significant step towards reducing Oregon's contribution to the problem.

On top of this, we also know that the public is overwhelmingly in favor of strong action on climate. In 2014 alone, thousands of Oregonians submitted public comments to the United States Environmental Protection Agency in support of rules to limit carbon pollution from power plants, bringing the national total to 8 million supportive comments. Also in 2014, Environment Oregon distributed more than 100,000 pieces of literature at Oregonians' doors throughout the state making the connection between global warming and extreme weather.

Aside from the environmental benefits, opening the market for clean energy like wind and solar also has the potential to bring more stable and safe jobs to our state. The solar industry, for example, already provides more than 2,700 jobs in installation, manufacturing, and maintenance across Oregon. Instead of sending billions of dollars out of state to continue to purchase dirty power, we could keep our dollars in Oregon and build our own clean energy economy.

**On behalf of our 40,000 members and supporters across the state, Environment Oregon urges you to support SB 477.**

Sincerely,  
Charlie Fisher, Clean Energy Advocate