

April 16, 2015

To: Chair Vega Pederson, members of the committee

From: Brent Gunderson Owner Gen-Con, Inc.

Subject HB3344-5

Today I come before the committee to express my support of HB-3344-5 a Bill to continue the efforts of the State to develop a strong Renewable Energy Industry here in Oregon. The changes asked for in HB-3344 will adjust the incentive for homeowners interested in investing in a solar water heating system for their homes. Not since its inception 1987 have any adjustments been made and what has happened is a steady decline in the number of systems being installed. Something like 50 or less last year. My company has not installed a single residential water heating system in 2014.

What I fear if the downward trend continues is a decline in the “institutional Knowledge” of lessens learned if companies close their doors, I personally hold a STL license, a license to install and maintain solar water heating systems in Oregon, which is issued by the State Building Codes Division. It requires 2000 hrs of on the job training and written testing. With so few installations not a single new individual has applied for STL training.

To maintain the gains we have made in Renewable Energy in the State I ask for your support of HB-3344.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

Brent Gunderson
President
Gen-Con, Inc.