



500 COURT STREET
P.O. Box 365
MORO, OREGON 97039

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FEBRUARY 25, 1889

April 21, 2015

GARY THOMPSON
JUDGE
565-3416

Representative Phil Barnhart
Chair, House Committee on Revenue
900 Court St.
Salem, Oregon 97301

TOM MCCOY
COMMISSIONER
565-3416

Subject: House Bill 3492

MICHAEL SMITH
COMMISSIONER
565-3416

Dear Chair Barnhart,

JENINE MCDERMID
CLERK
565-3606

The Sherman County Commissioners strongly support HB 3492. This bill allows solar project owners to enter into an agreement with county officials that exempts solar properties from property taxes in favor of a fee in lieu of taxes of \$7,000 per megawatt, for a period not to exceed 20 years.

ROSS TURNEY
ASSESSOR
565-3505

Renewable energy projects have provided significant economic impact in Sherman County and eastern Oregon. The development of a large number of wind farms in Sherman County prompted the Sherman County Commissioners to conduct their own analysis of the economic development impact of renewable energy installations. This analysis similarly concluded that a fee in lieu of taxes of \$7,000 per megawatt per year is appropriate and reasonable.

MARNENE BENSON-WOOD
TREASURER
565-3553

RON MCDERMID
JUSTICE OF THE PEACE
565-3572

The property tax reforms represented in HB 3492 will provide counties with an important tool to attract much needed economic development and jobs for our citizens. This Bill represents a fair result for the counties and the state while providing a modest incentive to entrepreneurs to build these important projects.

BRAD LOHREY
SHERIFF
565-3622

Please join us in our support of HB 3492. If you have questions regarding our support, please feel free to contact me any time.

MARK COLES
ROAD MASTER
565-3271
501 4TH STREET

Sincerely,

Gary Thompson
Sherman County Judge