

3Degrees

American Wind Energy Association

Atkins

Blattner Energy

Bonneville Environmental

Foundation

Center for Energy Efficiency &  
Renewable Technologies

Christenson Electric

Citizens' Utility Board of Oregon

Climate Solutions

Columbia Gorge

Community College

Community Renewable

Energy Association

DNV GL

Ecofys

EDF Renewable Energy

EDP Renewables

Environment Oregon

Environment Washington

Eurus Energy America

FirstWind

GE Energy

Geothermal

Resources Council

Green Mountain Energy

HDR Engineering, Inc.

Iberdrola Renewables

Idaho Conservation League

K&L Gates

Kapla Law PLLC

MAP

Montana Environmental

Information Center

MontPIRG

Natural Capital Partners

Natural Resources

Defense Council

NextEra Energy Resources

Northwest Environmental

Business Council

Northwest SEED

NW Energy Coalition

OneEnergy Renewables

Oregon Solar Energy

Industries Association

Orion Renewable Energy

Group LLC

OSPIRG

Oregon Tech

Portland Energy

Conservation, Inc.

REC Silicon

RES America Developments

Solar Oregon

SolarCity

Stoel Rives, LLP

SunPower Corporation

SWCA Environmental Consultants

Tonkon Torp LLP

Vestas Americas

Warm Springs Power &

Water Enterprises

Washington Environmental Council

WashPIRG

Western Resource Advocates

Date: April 20, 2015

To: Representative Phil Barnhart, Chair, House Committee on Revenue,  
and Committee Members

RE: Statement for the Record of Hillary Barbour, Policy Director, Renewable  
Northwest, for April 21, 2015 hearing on HB 3492.

Renewable Northwest supports HB 3492 and the -1 amendment, which would level the playing field for the tax treatment of larger scale and non-net metered solar projects in Oregon. The bill would allow solar project owners to enter a payment in lieu of taxes agreement with counties, not to exceed 20 years, with fees distributed in the same manner as property taxes.

Larger scale renewable energy projects often face financing challenges, in part due to the uncertainty surrounding potential tax liability. Under the agreements described in HB 3492, counties would receive revenue from the first year of a project's operation, and solar projects would benefit from a more equitable payment structure. We are pleased the Association of Oregon Counties supports the bill.

The increased development of solar energy can play a key role in helping Oregon meet its renewable energy goals. HB 3492 offers a practical tool to provide financial certainty to solar developers and a steady stream of revenue for counties.