



February 2, 2016

Representative Jessica Vega Pederson, Chair
Members of the House Committee on Energy and Environment
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Re: House Bill 4037

Chair Vega Pederson and Members of the Committee,

I write on behalf of Climate Solutions to express strong support for House Bill 4037. Climate Solutions is a regional non-profit working to accelerate practical and profitable solutions to global warming. For more than 15 years, Climate Solutions has been working to implement energy efficiency, renewable energy, and carbon reduction policies that demonstrate that clean energy and broadly shared economic prosperity go hand-in-hand.

Oregon is transitioning from coal and other fossil fuels to clean, renewable energy. As part of that transition, Oregon should support its own home-grown, low-cost renewable energy program. House Bill 4037 provides modest incentives to ensure that high-production solar farms are built in Oregon. The program is necessary to encourage construction of (roughly) 18 high-production solar plants in Oregon over the next two years.

Solar plants built in Oregon will create direct and indirect jobs in rural areas of the state. Using the well-known National Renewable Energy Laboratory Jobs and Economic Development Impact Model, Obsidian Renewables estimates 385 full time jobs will be created as a result of House Bill 4037. In addition, those solar plants will contribute much needed revenue to the state's tax base through income and property taxes.

Solar is perhaps the biggest clean energy success story in recent years. The costs of displacing coal and natural gas with solar power are falling dramatically across the country. Oregon can choose to invest in its own home-grown solar industry, or allow those plants and the jobs and income they create to be built in other states. House Bill 4037 represents an investment in Oregon's clean economy future that will create significant economic and environmental benefit. For this reason, Climate Solution strongly encourages you to pass House Bill 4037 this session.

Sincerely,

Kristen Sheeran, Ph.D.
Oregon Director, Climate Solutions