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February 1, 2016

Representative Jessica Vega Pederson
Chair, House Energy & Environment Committee

Members, House Energy & Environment Committee

RE: Support for HB 4037

Dear Chair Vega Pederson & Members of the Committee,

As advocates for Oregon's clean energy future, we support House Bill 4037, a modest investment in solar energy that will return significant climate and economic benefits to Oregon.

At this moment, Oregon has a unique opportunity to dramatically increase the amount of solar energy that it produces, as well as reduce its reliance on carbon emitting fossil fuels like coal. Over the decade, but particularly over the last five years, the price of solar has come down dramatically and is now close to parity with coal and natural gas. HB 4037 allows Oregon to make a meaningful investment in

renewable energy and become a national leader on solar. This bill would incentivize the creation of hundreds of megawatts of new, clean Oregon-produced solar energy. This would allow us to make real progress in meeting the state of Oregon's goals of carbon reduction.

Additionally, because the price of solar continues to dramatically drop, production of solar farms will continue across the United States. This bill will help ensure that significant solar development will occur in Oregon and that Oregon will reap the economic and environmental benefits that come as a result.

Finally, if Oregon is serious about fighting climate change and weaning itself off of fossil fuels, then it needs to make serious and substantive investments in safe, clean and reliable renewable energy. This bill provides a catalytic spark to Oregon's solar leadership and to reducing Oregon's reliance on coal generated electricity.

We encourage the Joint Committee on Ways & Means to approve HB 4037.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Sierra Club
Environment Oregon
Oregon Environmental Council
Renewable Northwest
Climate Solutions