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February 1, 2016

**TO:** Representative Jessica Vega Pederson, Chair, House Committee on Energy and Environment  
Members, House Committee on Energy and Environment

**FR:** Rikki Seguin, State Director, Environment Oregon

**RE:** Support of HB 4037

On behalf of our over 40,000 members and supporters across the state, **Environment Oregon supports HB 4037 as one of the key steps Oregon should take toward repowering our state with clean, renewable, solar energy.** Environment Oregon is a statewide, citizen-based, environmental advocacy organization.

As we experience the effects of global warming, from extreme drought to decreased snowpack, Oregon must shift away from fossil fuels that contribute to global warming and instead repower our state with clean, renewable energy. **HB 4037** is forward-thinking and balanced, and it functions as a simple and effective tool to get on the right track with solar power. Oregon lags woefully behind its solar energy potential, with only 0.02% of our current electricity consumption coming from the sun<sup>1</sup>.

And as our members make decisions about their own energy usage, time and again it becomes apparent that Oregonians are ready to make the shift toward renewables. The result of this legislation could be hundreds of megawatts of solar power being generated in Oregon and distributed to the tens of thousands of Oregonians who want locally-sourced, carbon-free energy.

**HB 4037** allows the state to invest in a clean energy future and get the most solar power for the lowest cost. It is also an investment in Oregon jobs and our local economy. **The passage of HB 4037 will help to grow Oregon's solar market, create local jobs, and ensure a clean energy future.**

**On behalf of our 40,000 members and supporters across Oregon, Environment Oregon urges you to support House Bill 4037.**

Sincerely,

Rikki Seguin  
State Director, Environment Oregon

<sup>1</sup> Oregon Department of Energy: [http://www.oregon.gov/energy/pages/oregons\\_electric\\_power\\_mix.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/energy/pages/oregons_electric_power_mix.aspx)