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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 4036

On behalf of our over 40,000 members and supporters across the state, **Environment Oregon supports HB 4036 as one of the key steps Oregon should take toward repowering the state with clean, renewable solar energy.** Environment Oregon is a statewide, citizen-based, environmental advocacy organization.

It's becoming clearer than ever that climate change is a real threat to the health of Oregon communities and families across the state, whether due to more intense and frequent forest fires or extreme summer drought. Coal-fired power plants are the leading source of global warming pollution in the country – if Oregon is serious about combatting global warming, removing coal from our electricity mix is a crucial step. **HB 4036 leads the way forward by eliminating coal from Oregon's electricity mix.**

Beyond removing the coal, Oregon must be committed to clean replacement resources – we do ourselves little good by replacing one dirty fossil with another. By pairing the removal of coal from our electricity mix with the doubling of the state's Renewable Portfolio Standard, we move the dial forward. **Removing coal from Oregon's energy mix and replacing it with clean energy sources like wind and solar would be a significant step towards reducing Oregon's contribution to global warming.**

Beyond the environmental benefits, opening the market for clean energy resources like wind and solar also has the potential to bring stable and safe clean energy jobs to our state. The solar industry, for example, already provides more than 2,100 jobs in installation, manufacturing, and other related fields across Oregon. Instead of sending billions of dollars out-of-state to continue to purchase dirty power, we could be keeping our dollars in Oregon and building our own clean energy economy.

House Bill 4036 does more than the already impressive job of removing coal from the electricity mix and increasing the Renewable Portfolio Standard to 50% by 2040. Environment Oregon has helped to develop a community solar program through public involvement at the Oregon Public Utility Commission's summer 2015 docket, UM 1746. We agree strongly that community solar should be included as an element of this legislation, because increasing access to clean solar power is a key element of replacing coal with clean energy.

Community solar projects will help the nearly 3 out of 4 Oregonians who lack the ability to install solar panels on their own roof. The program will allow individuals and businesses to purchase solar panels located in a solar array elsewhere in the state and get the same energy savings on their utility bill as if the panels were installed at home. Environment Oregon suggests amendments to the community solar



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portion of HB 4036 and recommend that the language be tailored to reflect SB 1572, a community solar-specific bill sponsored by Senator Lee Beyer and Representative Paul Holvey.

On behalf of our 40,000 members and supporters across the state, Environment Oregon urges you to support HB 4036 as a key step toward tackling global warming, investing in clean energy jobs, and ensuring a safe and livable planet for our children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Rikki Seguin'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rikki Seguin
State Director, Environment Oregon