



Bureau of Planning and Sustainability
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March 28, 2017

House Committee on Energy and Environment
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE, HR A
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Testimony in support of HB 2681 and HB 2760

Dear Chair Helm and Members of the Committee:

The City of Portland supports both HB 2681, which extends the sunset for the Residential Energy Tax Credit (RETC), and HB 2760, which extends the sunset for property tax exemption for renewable energy systems. Both of these programs have a long and successful history in Oregon.

Since RETC was introduced in 1978, it has been an exemplary triple-bottom-line program. RETC saves Oregonians money on their energy bills, creates and sustains jobs and helps lower statewide carbon emissions. RETC's benefits are notably widespread; families from every single county in Oregon have received tax credits for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects in their homes, and multiple studies have documented the strongly positive job impacts of energy efficiency in Oregon. As an investment in Oregon's economy, the benefits of the residential energy tax credit program clearly outweigh the costs.

The renewable energy property tax exemption (HB 2760), though small in terms of total dollars, contributes to the overall consumer value proposition that prompts home owners to go solar. Without this incentive in the market, we can expect to see fewer residential solar installations.

Energy efficiency and solar comprise a healthy part of Oregon's economy. A 2017 analysis by the U.S. Department of Energy found that these clean energy industries employ more than 48,000 Oregonians. This totals more jobs than we get from fossil-fuel power generation, fuels, transmission and distribution put together.



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Together, programs like the RETC and property tax exemption motivate consumers to make energy investments that have measurable impact on our economy and environment and benefits all Oregonians. HB 2681 and HB 2760 will extend important, effective and proven programs until 2023. The City of Portland strongly urges your support of these bills.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.



Susan Anderson
Director

