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March 29, 2017

TO: Representative Ken Helm, Chair, House Committee on Energy and Environment
Members, House Committee on Energy and Environment

FR: Rikki Seguin, Policy Director, Renewable Northwest

RE: Support of HB 2681

Dear Chair Helm:

Renewable Northwest is a regional, non-profit renewable energy advocacy organization based in Oregon. **We are pleased to support HB 2681, a bill to extend the state's effective Residential Energy Tax Credit (RETC).**

Since the Oregon Legislature first created the RETC in 1977, the program has helped to install 54MW of solar panels on residential rooftops. The program also supports energy efficiency and solar hot water heaters, helping Oregonians reduce energy consumption and save money.

As we transition towards a clean energy future, it is important to recognize the value of existing programs that are working. The RETC is one of these, helping Oregonians save money and energy, driving the growth of the solar industry, and reducing the need for new electric generation.

The program should be extended for an additional six years, keeping state incentives in line with federal incentives extended at the end of 2015. HB 2681 will boost solar adoption in the state and continue to create clean energy jobs.

As consumer interest in distributed energy generation, and solar energy in particular, continues to rise, **Renewable Northwest is pleased to support HB 2681.** This bill promotes increased consumer access to the benefits of homegrown renewable energy and is an important step towards a resilient and diverse clean energy future.

Sincerely,

Rikki Seguin
Policy Director
Renewable Northwest