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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:** Comments on HB 2680

Dear Chair Helm:

Renewable Northwest is a regional, non-profit renewable energy advocacy organization based in Oregon. We are pleased to provide comments on HB 2680.

The Renewable Energy Development Grants (RED Grants) support individuals and organizations that are investing in renewable energy systems, and are awarded competitively up to \$250,000 per project. The grants bring tremendous benefits to Oregon, leveraging additional investment to promote a thriving and competitive renewable energy industry in our state.

The benefits of renewable resources extend beyond shrinking Oregon's carbon footprint. Renewable energy projects create both construction and permanent on-site jobs in rural communities. Property tax revenues from projects provide an important stream of revenue to counties.

**The RED grants have been supportive of the development of renewable energy systems across Oregon, and we are pleased to support HB 2680's goal of extending the program.**

Unfortunately, **we cannot support HB 2680 at this time with its inclusion of waste heat in the list of approved renewable energy production systems.** This would enable waste heat, produced from burning unspecified materials, to compete against approved renewable energy sources for the grants. While utilizing waste heat is a laudable efficiency improvement, it is not in and of itself a renewable energy production system.

Sincerely,

Rikki Seguin  
Policy Director  
Renewable Northwest