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Western Resource Advocates

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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 2760

Dear Chair Helm:

Renewable Northwest is a regional, non-profit renewable energy advocacy organization based in Oregon. We are pleased to support HB 2760, a bill to extend the state's property tax exemption for onsite use of solar and other net-metered alternative energy systems for six years.

In 2015-2017 alone, approximately 1,400 Oregon properties utilized the property tax exemption for solar or other onsite alternative energy systems. This longstanding program has become of key part of the value proposition that prompts homeowners to invest in solar systems.

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

As consumer interest in distributed energy generation, and solar energy in particular, continues to rise, **Renewable Northwest is pleased to support HB 2760.** 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

Rikki Seguin