

3-31-17

Senator Lee Beyer
Chair, Business and Transportation Committee
Oregon State Legislature, Senate Committee on Business & Transportation
900 Court Street NE, S-411
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chairman Beyer and members of Senate Committee on Business and Transportation:

My name is Jason Carr and I am the Director of Community Relations for Cypress Creek Renewables and I'm based in Central Oregon. To date, Cypress Creek has completed 8 projects worth \$120 million and we have another \$300 million worth of projects in development.

I am writing to express Cypress Creek's strong support for SB 979, the "Renewable Direct Access" legislation proposed by the Northwest & Intermountain Power Producers Coalition. SB 979 permits nonresidential customers to buy green energy directly from independent power producers like Cypress Creek. The legislation has several promising benefits for Oregon:

Good for Local Business. Allowing businesses to choose Renewable Direct Access will spur construction and new green jobs hires. Businesses will be able to buy new solar, wind, biomass, small hydro and geothermal power, all of which can be found here in Oregon.

Boost Economic Development in Rural Counties. Almost all of Cypress Creek's power projects are built near small towns in rural counties. We contribute valuable property tax dollars to the communities that help pay for roads, schools, and county services, as well as employ a considerable number of local construction workers.

Good for the Environment. Solar power does not produce any air pollution or CO₂ emissions; SB 979 allows businesses to choose the source of power they prefer for their communities.

Good for Ratepayers. The cost of building utility-scale solar power has fallen so dramatically it is becoming the cheapest form of new power generation on the market. SB 979 will allow businesses to lock in a cheaper rate for their electricity without affecting other customers.

For these reasons, I urge you to vote in support of SB 979.

Sincerely,



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cc: Senators Thomsen, Girod, Monroe, Riley, and Mr. Robert Kahn