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Members**

3Degrees
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Center for Energy Efficiency &
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Cypress Creek Renewables
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EDF Renewable Energy
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Environment Oregon
Environment Washington
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GE Energy
Geothermal Resources Council
Green Mountain Energy
HDR Engineering, Inc.
Idaho Conservation League
Invenergy
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Defense Council
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Northwest Environmental
Business Council
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NW Energy Coalition
OneEnergy Renewables
Oregon Solar Energy
Industries Association
OSPIRG
Oregon Tech
Orion Renewable Energy
Group LLC
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Solar Oregon
Stoel Rives, LLP
SunPower Corporation
SWCA Environmental Consultants
Vestas Americas
Warm Springs Power &
Water Enterprises
Washington Environmental Council
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Western Resource Advocates

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April 12, 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 3227

Dear Chair Helm:

Renewable Northwest is a regional nonprofit organization committed to the responsible development of renewable energy resources in Oregon and throughout the Pacific Northwest; our diverse membership is a combination of renewable energy businesses and environmental and consumer groups. **We are pleased to support HB 3227.**

The passage of the Clean Electricity and Coal Transition Act (SB 1547) marked a historic moment for Oregon. It captured the will of the people to clean up our energy supply and put Oregon firmly on a path to build upon our generous legacy of renewable energy resources to meet our needs. As part of this vision, the legislation also created a community solar program for the state.

Community solar programs across the country increase opportunities for individuals and businesses to invest in clean, solar energy projects and receive direct benefit on their utility bills. Since Oregon legislatively created its community solar program in 2016, Renewable Northwest has been actively engaged in its rulemaking at the Oregon Public Utility Commission. Through our engagement, we have advocated for a flexible community solar program that provides real opportunities for Oregonians to access solar, leading to the installation of more solar projects across the state, benefitting the communities where projects are built and the companies and workers who build them.

For many Oregonians, the cost of participation will be a key factor in deciding whether to subscribe to a community solar project. HB 3227 will help drive participation in community solar projects by decreasing the costs to participate.

Renewable Northwest supports HB 3227's aim of applying the Residential Energy Tax Credit to community solar projects. Furthermore, we are also supportive of a broader conversation regarding the appropriate type of incentive to support community solar going forward. **We believe that HB 3227 is a strong start to a larger conversation about ways to restructure existing incentives, and possibly creating new incentives, to drive participation in the state's community solar program.**

Sincerely,

Rikki Seguin
Policy Director
Renewable Northwest