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TO: Joint Committee on Tax Credits
FR: Charlie Fisher, State Director, Environment Oregon
RE: Support of HB 2681 A

Environment Oregon is a statewide, citizen-based, environmental advocacy organization. We represent over 40,000 members and supporters from across the state.

We support HB 2681 A as a key step Oregon should take towards advancing renewable energy, especially solar energy and its multitude of benefits.

The Residential Energy Tax Credit is a long-running program that has been successful in achieving its mission of driving the growth of Oregon's solar and energy efficiency industries and helping homeowners save money and energy when investing in clean energy. These credits are one of the most important statewide solar incentives currently in place, especially for rural counties that lack other incentives. This solar incentives allows solar to continue to grow rapidly throughout Oregon, providing good local jobs for Oregonian that also help to protect the environment. In the past year, there has been a 50% increase in solar jobs in Oregon.

As our solar energy industry grows, we are reducing carbon emissions, improving air quality and protecting public health -- all while putting people to work in their communities. Ultimately we know we can and must repower our lives using 100 percent renewable energy in Oregon and across the country. It's critical that state lawmakers act to keep this growth going by extending the Residential Energy Tax Credit. In doing so, Oregonians will continue to benefit. For these reasons, Environment Oregon, on behalf of our members and supporters across the state, urges you to support HB 2681 A.