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## OREGON CHAPTER SIERRA CLUB

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To: Members of the Joint Committee on Tax Credits

From: Rhett Lawrence, Oregon Chapter Sierra Club

Date: June 2, 2017

RE: House Bill 2681

Co-Chairs Hass and Barnhart and Members of the Committee: On behalf of the more than 20,000 members and supporters of the Sierra Club in Oregon, I am pleased to offer our enthusiastic support for House Bill 2681.

As an organization with a long history working in support of renewable energy in Oregon, we believe the Residential Energy Tax Credit (RETC) is critical to the expansion of renewable energy in our state. For nearly a decade, the Sierra Club has operated its “Go Solar” program in Oregon and around the country to line up interested households with solar installers and ensure that they have access to all available incentives. And even though the cost of installed solar generation has declined significantly in the last decade, unfortunately the upfront installation costs still keep solar power out of reach for many households. We fear that, without an extension of the RETC in Oregon, that situation would escalate even further.

Solar energy is playing an increasingly important role in our state’s renewable energy mix, and solar technology presents a wealth of job creation opportunities for our economy. In addition, the RETC has been critical to all kinds of energy efficiency benefits. Indeed, millions of dollars have been saved in Oregon as a result of more efficient furnaces, water heaters, and heat pumps made available to households because of the RETC.

We believe the Residential Energy Tax Credit is critical to keeping this important momentum going in Oregon. Too many jobs are at stake and too many households need its benefits to allow the RETC to expire. For these reasons, we respectfully urge this Committee to pass House Bill 2681.

Thank you very much for considering my comments and please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance to the Committee.