



Oregon Citizens' Utility Board

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June 2, 2017

To: Representative Phil Barnhart, Senator Mark Hass, Co-Chairs
Joint Committee on Tax Credits
From: Janice Thompson, Advocacy Director
Re: Support for HB 2681A

The Oregon Citizens' Utility Board (CUB) urges your support of HB 2681A, the Residential Energy Tax Credit (RETC). This financial incentive has a proven track record in facilitating household actions to improve energy efficiency and add solar energy systems. Benefits include less pollution, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, and good paying jobs in a significant statewide industry.

As an advocate for residential utility customers, CUB particularly wants to highlight the energy system benefits actions enabled by RETC. Energy efficiency benefits will always make sense because helping customers and energy utilities across the state save energy and money displaces the need for new utility investments in electric generation. By offsetting the cost of a home solar installation, ultra-efficient heat pumps, furnace, or water heater, the RETC program is for many Oregonians the most accessible tool to realize substantial savings. Many households can further leverage their RETC credit with additional incentives through the Energy Trust of Oregon. Without the RETC, several energy efficiency products offered by the Energy Trust would no longer be available. This is detrimental for individual customers and overall energy system benefits would be reduced.

The amendments to the original bill adds clear goals and benchmarks for the RETC program that would not only empower the Department of Energy, but also groups like CUB, by providing new tools to analyze the program's impact over time.

CUB urges a "yes" vote on HB 2681A.