



Bureau of Planning and Sustainability

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June 2, 2017

Joint Committee on Tax Credits
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE, HR A
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Testimony in support of HB 2681 and SB 177a

Dear Chairs Hass, Barnhart and Members of the Committee:

The City of Portland strongly supports HB 2681 and SB 177a, which extend the sunset for the Residential Energy Tax Credit (RETC). This program has a long and successful history in Oregon.

Since RETC was introduced in 1978, it has been an exemplary triple-bottom-line program. RETC saves Oregonians money on their energy bills, creates and sustains jobs and helps lower statewide carbon emissions. RETC's benefits are notably widespread; families from every single county in Oregon have received tax credits for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects in their homes. Multiple studies have documented the strongly positive job impacts of energy efficiency in Oregon. As an investment in Oregon's economy, the benefits of the residential energy tax credit program clearly outweigh the costs.

Energy efficiency and solar comprise a healthy part of Oregon's economy. A 2017 analysis by the U.S. Department of Energy found that these clean energy industries employ more than 48,000 Oregonians. This totals more jobs than we get from fossil-fuel power generation, fuels, transmission and distribution put together.

Programs like the RETC motivate consumers to make energy investments that have measurable impact on our economy and environment and benefits all Oregonians. Without RETC in the market, we can expect to see fewer residential energy efficiency projects and solar installations. HB 2681 and SB 177a will extend this important, effective and proven program until 2023. The City of Portland strongly urges your support of these bills.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Susan Anderson
Director



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