

From: Tom K
To: [LRO](#)
Cc: "emil@sunworksusa.com"
Subject: HB 2681 - The RETC Extension Bill
Date: Friday, June 02, 2017 10:15:34 AM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)

Dear Committee Members:

I am writing on behalf of Sunworks, an alternative energy company that specializes in the design and installation of Solar PhotoVoltaic system for home and business. These systems convert sunshine to electricity. This, in turn, reduces the customer's demand for electricity from the local utility and lowers their monthly electric bill. In many cases, we are able to design a system that completely eliminates a customer's bill.

We strongly support HB 2681, the RETC Extension Bill. This measure would have a positive impact on our state from many different perspectives. There would be no negative impact at all.

As an initial matter, enacting this measure would help support Oregon's long held goals of being a leader in green energy and environmental protection. Governor Brown has repeatedly expressed Oregon's commitment to these issues. Yesterday, after President Trump declared that the US would withdraw from the Paris Agreement, Governor Brown again stated that "Climate change poses the greatest threat to Oregon's environment, economy, and way of life. Oregon has a strong tradition of fighting climate change, and we will not back down." Enacting this bill will help Oregon homeowners and business lead the charge to protect the environment. As a longtime Oregon resident, I can say with complete confidence that there is no other state in the USA in which environmental protection is a higher priority.

From an environmental perspective, there can be no dispute that alternative energy systems, such as Solar PV, provide environmental benefits. They reduce our dependence on traditional energy sources such as coal or oil. The less coal or oil we use, the fewer harmful byproducts are dumped into our air and water. There is study after study that show how even modest solar arrays remove literally tons of

CO₂ from our atmosphere. The RETC allows more and more Oregonians to afford alternative energy systems which protects our local and global environment. Imagine a solar array on every home in Oregon and the benefits they would bring. We would be able to completely eliminate our dependence on fossil fuels and become energy independent. Extending the RETC helps moves us ever closer to achieving that dream.

From a business perspective, a complete industry has grown up around the RETC. Companies that provide Photo Voltaic systems along with other alternative energy systems, have been able to thrive in part as a result of the RETC. Using the RETC, we can demonstrate to Oregonians how affordable alternative energy systems can be. People can recover the cost of their system within a few years through reduction of their electric bill. Without the tax credit, the cost recovery period would become much longer and these systems would become unaffordable for many people.

Without the RETC, sales will falter and if that happens, many hundreds, if not thousands, of Oregonians would face the loss of their jobs. We are already seeing this happen as a result of diminishing incentives from the Energy Trust of Oregon and other utility companies. If you allow the RETC to sunset, I am certain you will see many local solar businesses “sunset” as well.

We strongly support the HB 2681, the RETC extension bill.



Thomas Knapp

Pacific Northwest Operations Manager

Sunworks United, Inc.

1030 Winding Creek Road, Suite 100 | Roseville, CA 95678

Direct Dial: 916-580-4834 | Cell: 971-707-1041

Email: tknapp@sunworksusa.com

www.sunworksusa.com | NASDAQ: SUNW