

From: Kathy Ging
To: [LRO](#)
Subject: Letter in support of RETC continuation-HB 2681/SB 177
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HB 2681/SB 177

To Oregon Legislators:

It is time to step up to the plate and bat to continue RETC legislation.

After all, Oregon State motto is: She Flies with her Own Wings.

I am an individual who, while doing graduate work at the UO Eugene in 1986-87, initiated the revised version of the residential renewable tax personal income tax credit in Oregon in the mid 80s after 80% of the solar biz state and nationwide had gone bankrupt.

(As director of Oregon Energy Round-Up at the Oregon State Fair from 1982-84, I had been in a prime position to see adverse effects of the tax credit on solar businesses in particular when it atrophied.)

Energy consultant Howard Reichmuth drafted the bill, and, with the support of forward looking legislators, a revised RETC based on energy performance in the first year expected yield was passed in the late 80s.

It is unlikely that Oregon would have much of a solar energy industry presence in the last 30 years if this revised version of the RETC had not been initiated and passed.

Devastation to the solar energy business in the mid 80s was due to the sunset of state and federal renewable (aka alternative) energy personal income tax credits.

Since then, we have seen the birth and rebirth of solar energy technology for homes and businesses as new systems for production and storage have emerged.

RETC passage by the Oregon Legislature (22 to zip the day before summer solstice in the Senate) in the late 80s on the second legislative attempt enabled Oregon to restart a nascent development of solar and other renewable energy industries in the last 30 years.

Many obstacles have thwarted Oregon's renewable energy transition long heralded by Gov. Tom McCall's team in the TRANSITION study including main stream even publicly owned utility intransigence in investing in fossil fuel and nuclear energy paradigms.

Small solar energy companies have been under-capitalized electricity. Electricity rates were much higher in CA, HI, AL, FL, and elsewhere so that the PNW became later adopters to widespread solar.

Now as solar reaches or in some cases has achieved parity we need to adopt maximum strategies to achieve widespread solar utilization and add more resilience to the grid.

As solar can provide electricity to be store in Tesla (Powerwalls) or other batteries and can be

used to power electric vehicles. Former Corvallis Mayor Tomlinson powers his home and neighborhood electric vehicle primarily via home site solar electric cells.

We should take maximum advantage now to use remaining fossil fuels and other resources to build infrastructure to allow solar to take on a higher increment of energy usage. Amory Lovin's advice in **Soft Energy Paths** is even more relevant today as PPM has risen to an unsustainable 410 and contamination of land, air and water has alarming consequences to humans, other sentients and habitats that may be irreversible.

Now is the time to recognize that we need to adopt maximum measures to remove obstacles to the solar paradigm.

That means keeping incentives in place for solar and other renewable energy utilization.

Thank you for your immediate attention!

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