



Co-Chairs Hass and Barnhart, Members of the Committee
Joint Committee on Tax Credits
900 Court Street NE, Room 354
Salem, Oregon 97301

June 2, 2017

RE: Support for House Bill 2681 A and Senate Bill 177 A, extending and amending tax credit incentives for Oregonians to invest in residential energy efficiency improvements and solar energy systems

Dear Co-Chairs Hass and Barnhart and Members of the Committee:

Neil Kelly Company strongly supports HB 2681 and SB177. This legislation provides Oregon homeowners - in all corners of the state - with important income tax credits that reduce the cost of high efficiency systems like heat pumps, water heaters, and furnaces. State tax credits are critical to ensure that manufacturers and distributors continue to offer consumers efficient upgrade options. Oregon needs these tax credits to help meet its carbon goals.

Since 1978, RETC has provided Oregon families with over 570,000 tax credits to help them enjoy warmer, safer homes and become more energy efficient. As a result, energy efficiency has fueled hundreds of businesses that support more than 41,000 Oregon jobs. Energy efficiency also reduces pollution and greenhouse gas emissions by saving Oregonians more than 2 million kilowatt hours of electricity annually. And the money we save on our electric bills goes right back into Oregon's economy.

In other states where similar incentive losses occurred, manufacturers have stopped supplying efficient options to our distributors and our distributors have stopped stocking them. Additionally, any incentives currently offered by the Energy Trust of Oregon will be reduced or eliminated as a result - incentives such as: solar, gas water heaters, gas furnaces, air-sourced ducted heat pumps, ductless heat pumps, and direct vent gas fireplaces. In short, RETC's benefits far outweigh the cost for Oregonians.

Please support House Bill 2681 and SB177 to save jobs, protect the environment, and enrich the lives of Oregon families.

Sincerely,

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