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Joint Committee on Tax Credits  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

June 2, 2017

RE: HB 2681 and SB 177 Oregon Residential Energy Tax Credit Program

Dear Senator Hass, Representative Barnhart, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to comment in support of Oregon's Residential Energy Tax Credit (RETC) program. 3Degrees is a leading provider of comprehensive clean energy and carbon services that enable organizations and individuals to transition towards a low-carbon economy. 3Degrees proudly calls Oregon home. Our largest office, and many of our largest utility and corporate clients, are located in Oregon. 3Degrees is also the implementer of PacifiCorp's Blue Sky program, one of the largest and most successful voluntary green power programs in the country.

In these capacities, we regularly meet with thousands of households and businesses to talk about their clean energy goals. Oregonians overwhelmingly support clean energy solutions that protect the health of their children and communities, reduce the risks of climate change, create local jobs, and reduce their energy and transportation expenses. Policy and financial supports are vital to creating a thriving clean energy economy in Oregon and signaling to businesses that Oregon is open to their clean energy investment. Other states are starting to outpace Oregon, once a recognized sustainability leader, in the transition to clean energy. Failure to fund the RETC program would set Oregon's economy back.

The RETC is one of the most impactful clean energy tools available to Oregon. It supports the installation of geothermal, solar, and wind systems and encourages adoption of money-saving energy-efficiency improvements. The RETC has reduced energy bills by \$172 million over the lifetime of the program; \$2.5 million in 2015 alone.<sup>1</sup> The solar industry in Oregon employs more than 4,500 Oregonians. Nationally, the number of solar jobs grew 17 times faster than overall job growth.<sup>2</sup> Oregonians deserve to have those jobs available in Oregon. If the RETC expires, jobs will be lost and new jobs in the nation's fastest growing sector will not materialize in Oregon.

Oregon is facing a very tough budget environment. Funding RETC is an investment in Oregon's future. It will pay for itself in savings for households and businesses and expand the tax base through job growth. The RETC is good for

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<sup>1</sup> ECONorthwest, *The Economic Impacts and Macroeconomic Benefits of Energy Efficiency Programs in Oregon*, August 2016.

<sup>2</sup> <http://money.cnn.com/2017/05/24/news/economy/solar-jobs-us-coal/>



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Oregon's environment and its economy. As a leading provider of clean energy solutions, we encourage you to fund RETC and restore Oregon's clean energy leadership on the national stage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kristen Sheeran'.

**Kristen Sheeran Ph.D.**  
Director of Government Affairs and Policy