



June 20, 2017

Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE, HR A
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chairman Hass and Committee Members:

The Oregon Solar Energy Industries Association (OSEIA) is the trade association for Oregon's solar businesses. We represent over 90 member solar installers, developers, manufacturers, equipment distributors, educational institutions and nonprofit organizations. OSEIA urges your support of House Bill 2760.

Since 1975, Oregon has exempted from property taxation the additional value that comes from installing solar or other onsite alternative energy systems. House Bill 2760 simply extends this existing law for six more years.

Approximately 1,400 properties took advantage of this property tax exemption during 2015-2017. Although its revenue impact is small (about \$1.8 million statewide), this longstanding policy remains a key part of the value proposition that prompts homeowners to choose solar or other renewable energy options that offset their energy usage.

Essentially, under this law, if you choose to install an onsite alternative energy device, your property continues to be taxed as if you hadn't. The principle is to remove increased property taxes as a disincentive for choosing alternative energy.

As we transition towards a clean energy future, it is important to recognize the value of existing programs that are working. The property tax exemption is one of these, helping Oregonians save money and energy, driving the growth of the solar and alternative energy industries, and reducing the need for new electric generation.

We vetted HB 2760 with key property tax stakeholders, including the League of Oregon Cities, Association of Oregon Counties, Oregon Special Districts Association, and the Oregon Association of County Assessors. None are opposed. Both the House Energy & Environment and House Revenue Committees passed it unanimously.

We urge you to support it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "MAX Muller". The letters are cursive and somewhat stylized.

Max Muller
Legislative Director
Oregon Solar Energy Industries Associations (OSEIA)