

February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Dear Oregon State Legislature,

I am writing this letter to voice my support for HB 2618, which creates a rebate for rooftop solar in Oregon. I believe that this bill is pivotal in order for Oregon to achieve its goal of 100% renewable energy by 2050. While Oregon is a state that likes to tout its clean energy leadership and its love for the environment, our leadership has failed to pass the legislation needed to really prove that we care. Back in July, Oregon was rated a D+ for renewable energy initiatives by Food & Water Watch, a Washington, D.C. based advocacy group. This was especially evident with the loss of the Residential Energy Tax Credit Program in 2018. With the double whammy of solar tariffs and the loss of the RETC, along with a hostile administration in Washington, the Oregon Solar Industry has been hit especially hard. With nothing to replace the RETC, the solar industry in our state has struggled to push forward and has even started to see declines for the first time in years.

Working in distribution for the solar industry, we saw residential projects fall off of a cliff between the end of 2017 and beginning of 2018 that lasted throughout the year. The Oregon Solar Industry lost more than 10% of its workforce in the last two years because of this and we've seen numerous small business close their doors for good. These are well paying jobs of the future that could support an increasingly struggling middle class in our state. While things have begun to rebound, progress has been excruciatingly slow. We need immediate and bold action if we want to address climate change, create jobs, and show that Oregon can be a leader in the future renewable energy economy. As a state, we will continue to fall further and further behind the rest of the nation and the world unless we take action. If we do not work to enact bills like HB 2618, we will never become the renewable energy leader that we want to be as a state.

Out of all the states in the nation, most people think of Oregon as one that cares most about our planet and the natural world that we all hold dear. It is one of the things that attracts people to our state both as residents and visitors every single year and is a major contributor to our economy. We must support the solar industry if we want to maintain this and we must prove to the nation and the world that we can be a leader and driver for change. I urge you to please vote to pass HB 2618 for the good of the solar industry, our economy, our environment, and the world. NASA says that we only have 10 years to act in order to save our planet from runaway climate change and environmental/economic disaster. We should not wait and we should be bold. The people of Oregon need a bright future with well-paying jobs and the beautiful outdoors to enjoy. Let's not wait because if we do, then someday we will look around and it will certainly be too late.

Thank you,

Andrew McGuigan

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