

Carbon Reduction Committee Proposal

The Legislature should suspend the Kicker in 2019 and instead use that money to buy and install enough solar panels to offset all the future electrical bills for:

- Every public-school district and university in Oregon;
- every local and county government; and
- the State government.

The Kicker gives Oregonians a short-term benefit but we elect leaders who will hopefully be wise enough to realize that certain long-term investments are worth making because of the immense benefits they bring.

There are many problems facing Oregon but, as the Governor's Climate Agenda Report so very well illustrates, climate change presents the single biggest threat to our sustainable existence.

Such an investment would:

- Address climate change in a very tangible and dramatic fashion;
- substantially reduce the on-going cost of government and public schools (as all of those public entities would no longer have monthly electric bills to pay); and
- Bring economic development and good paying jobs to Oregon.

The solar panels to be installed should be purchased from SolarWorld in Hillsboro. **[For the record I do not have any financial interest in SolarWorld nor have I ever communicated with anyone at SolarWorld. All I know about SolarWorld is that they are Oregon based and are one of the world's largest solar-technology producers and the largest U.S. solar panel manufacturer. I just think that such corporate behavior should be encouraged and supported.]** Such a sole source procurement would be justified because all of the panels would be manufactured in Oregon (providing economic development and good paying jobs) so the State would receive additional corporate and income tax revenue as a result. Obviously, the price for the solar panels would have to be negotiated and it would have to be a FMV price.

The solar panels would then be installed in State highway rights-of-ways in Eastern Oregon (as that is where the most sun is). This would mean more economic development and good paying jobs in rural Oregon.

Installing the solar panels in the state highway rights-of-way would mean that:

- No land would be needed to be bought or leased;
- No land would be taken out of production (as the rights-of-way already exist);
- The electricity generated could be readily fed into the power grid;
- Environmental impacts would be negligible; and
- The state would be taking something (i.e. the highway rights-of-way) that presently have just a single use and would, be making it do double-duty.

If the Legislature were to do this Oregon would be telling the rest of the country (and the entire world) that while our current president may not believe that climate change is man-made and does not require immediate dramatic action to curb it; Oregon does!

If we do not take such bold action immediately to address climate change our children and our State most definitely will be severely and negatively impacted in the future.

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