



February 16, 2015

Chair Jessica Vega Pederson
House Committee on Energy and Environment
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: HB 2632

Dear Chair Vega Pederson and Members of the Committee:

Oregonians for Renewable Energy Progress supports passage of HB 2632. Our organization of over 900 members works to advance the transition to an economy powered by clean, locally generated, renewable energy.

As you know, Oregon sends approximately \$12 Billion out of state for fossil fuels each year.¹ We are not producers of coal, oil or natural gas. Generating more renewable energy in state and recirculating those energy dollars in our local economies would reduce this financial hemorrhage and create a net economic benefit to the State.

Oregon has abundant renewable resources but, as the Committee recently saw from an ODOE slide, solar presently accounts for only .02% of our electricity consumption. Several members have asked witnesses about doing something bolder, more global. You have also expressed concern about the cost of energy proposals. HB 2632 would move the needle at reasonable cost.

HB 2632 would make possible a meaningful increase in utility-scale solar PV generation, by paying a portion of the cost of the electricity actually produced, for seven years. The payments are scheduled to decrease annually. If the State is going to support development of solar electricity generation this bill provides bang for the buck.

Utility-scale PV by itself is not enough; for a resilient grid we also need widespread distributed energy at all scales, community renewable installations, financing tools, energy storage, demand response, transmission, and investment in renewables by our utilities. But HB 2632 is an important piece of the solution. We need to get started and HB 2632 will help make a leap forward in Oregon solar generation and help drive down costs, build a supply chain and employ skilled workers.

¹http://www.oregon.gov/energy/Ten_Year/docs/Oregon_Energy_Task_Force_Report.pdf
U.S. Energy Information Administration, State Energy Data 2008



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We urge your passage of HB 2632.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Pengilly
Oregonians for Renewable Energy Progress