



February 28, 2019

TO: Representative Ken Helm, Chair, House Committee on Energy and Environment
Members, House Committee on Energy and Environment

FR: Rikki Seguin, Policy Director, Renewable Northwest

RE: Support for HB 2618

Dear Chair Helm:

Renewable Northwest is a regional, non-profit renewable energy advocacy organization based in Oregon, dedicated to the responsible development of renewable energy resources throughout the Pacific Northwest. Our members are a combination of renewable energy businesses and environmental and consumer groups. **Renewable Northwest supports HB 2618.**

HB 2618 builds on a legacy of successful clean energy programs in the state, while adjusting to important lessons learned, and it will help support Oregon's clean energy vision and its growing solar and energy storage industry.

The Program would enable Oregonians to qualify for rebates to help pay for solar energy system installations. The thoughtful approach ramps down with time, has differentiated offerings for residential and commercial systems, and importantly recognizes energy storage as an important component of a clean and resilient future.

As of 2017, Oregon has seen over \$1.8 billion in total solar investments made, with over 260 MW of solar installed, including residential, commercial and utility scale applications. HB 4121 would help more residential and commercial customers be part of the state's clean energy future and achieve their clean energy goals.

These investments mean more than just helping Oregon achieve its clean energy vision. They also provide jobs for solar manufacturers and installers, and contribute a stable source of public revenue to local entities. Oregon's residential solar industry has been notably impacted by the sunset of the Residential Energy Tax Credit, and is at the same time bracing for the effects of new, federal solar tariffs. HB 2618 would help buffer against these impacts to the industry and create stability in the workforce.

As consumer interest in distributed energy generation, and solar energy in particular, continues to rise, **Renewable Northwest is pleased to support HB 2618.** This bill promotes increased consumer access to the benefits of homegrown renewable energy and is an important step towards a resilient and diverse clean energy future.

Sincerely,

Rikki Seguin
Policy Director