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HB 3004 A

Joint Committee on Tax Expenditures

Testimony of Mike McArthur, Executive Director, CREA

Co-Chairs Nathanson & Meek, Vice Chairs Boquist, Reschke and Walters and members of the Joint Tax Expenditure Committee.

CREA an intergovernmental entity representing local governments and developers of renewable energy facilities in Oregon since 2007. We support HB 3004 A.

The bill creates a tax credit for owners of eligible facilities for the amount paid during the tax year by the owner of an eligible generation facility for transmission services.

CREA is supporting this concept, since we believe it could help spur more development of renewable energy projects built in Oregon by helping to reduce the cost of paying for transmission services.

According to [a recent study from ECO Northwest](#), Oregon could see a boost of up to \$15B to Oregon's economy by 2040. Benefits of renewable energy development locally include adding good-paying jobs and increase revenues for local governments, in many cases in rural Oregon.

We have seen this play out in Sherman and Gilliam Counties, #1 & #2 in renewable energy generation in the state. Those counties were traditionally near the bottom of per capita income rankings for the state. Due to renewable energy they are currently #s 4 & 6.

Given that developers must pay up front for any improvements in transmission infrastructure to accommodate their project, we believe HB 3004 A is a helpful tool for renewable energy developers and encourage the legislature to pass the bill this session.

We believe that the tax incentive will return much more in income and property taxes and building new renewable energy in Oregon has other benefits such as resiliency.

Please pass HB 3004 A and move to Ways and Means.

CREA is an ORS 190 intergovernmental association. Members include counties, irrigation districts, project developers, for-profit businesses and non-profit organizations. CREA supports business and economic opportunities through renewable energy development in a competitive environment. We support use of free enterprise principles to create economically and environmentally responsible electric generation within the State of Oregon.