

April 14, 2015

Environment Oregon  
1536 SE 11th Ave.  
Portland, OR. 97214



Dear Legislator,

As a coalition of Oregon city councilors, county commissioners and mayors, we urge you to support solar energy in Oregon. When it comes to producing clean and local renewable energy, Oregon has always been a leader. Yet we still get less than 1 percent of our energy from the sun and instead rely on dirty and unsustainable sources like coal and oil. With the right policies, we can produce ten times the solar energy we do today and install 250,000 solar rooftops by 2025, generating clean energy to power our lives, repower our economy and help stop global warming.

Oregon is already one of the nation's leading centers for solar technology design and manufacturing. We are home to the nation's largest solar panel manufacturer - SolarWorld in Hillsboro. Oregon has 133 solar companies throughout the state, employing over 2,700 Oregonians. Additionally, because the panels are made in Oregon and installed by Oregonians, more than 80% of the money invested in solar systems stays in state.

Unfortunately, solar energy production in Oregon lags behind states like Massachusetts, a state with less solar energy potential than Oregon but has nine times more solar power generation than Oregon. What makes these states different from Oregon is not the quality of infrastructure or amount of sunlight but the policies that these states have put into place. This legislative session, you have the opportunity to pass a series of bills that would help bring 10 times more solar power to Oregon in the next ten years.

With droughts, wildfires, and heat waves becoming more frequent and devastating as a result of global warming, it's absolutely critical that we switch to clean energy. Generating 10 percent of Oregon's electricity from solar energy would create a significant reduction in global warming pollution, preventing 3.8 million metric tons of carbon dioxide pollution per year by 2025—the equivalent of removing 730,000 cars from the road.

There is no time to wait. We have more than enough sunshine and ingenuity in Oregon to advance solar power and our economy, but we need strong solar policies that will make it easy and affordable for residents and businesses. We urge you to support any strong solar policies that are proposed in the current legislative session that will create a stronger economy, a safer environment, and a brighter future for generations to come.

Sincerely,

**Ashland**

Councilor Rich Rosenthal  
Councilor Stefani Seffinger  
Councilor Pam Marsh

**Astoria**

Councilor Drew Herzig

**Bandon**

Councilor Peter Braun

**Bend**

Councilor Nathan Boddie  
Mayor Jim Clinton  
Mayor Pro Tem Sally Russel

**Benton County**

Commissioner Jay Dixon  
Commissioner Annabelle Jaramillo  
Commissioner Anne Schuster

**Coos Bay**

Councilor Stephanie Kramer

**Corvallis**

Corvallis Mayor Biff Traber  
Corvallis Councilor Joel Hirsch

**Eugene**

Mayor Kitty Piercy  
Councilor Claire Syrett

Councilor Alan Zelenka

Councilor Betty Taylor

**Fairview**

Councilor Steven Prom

**Lake Oswego**

Councilor Jon Gustafson

**Lane County**

Commissioner Pete Sorenson

**Lincoln City**

Councilor Wes Ryan

**Lincoln County**

Commissioner Bill Hall

**Hood River**

Mayor Paul Blackburn  
Councilor Peter Cornelison  
**Hood River County**

Commissioner Ron Rivers

**Milwaukie**

Councilor Mark Gamba

**Lake Oswego**

Councilor Jon Gustafson

**Milwaukie**

Councilor Mark Gamba

**Newberg**

Councilor Denise Bacon

**Newport**

Mayor Sandra Roumagoux  
Councilor Wes Ryan

**Pendleton**

Councilor Thomas Young

**Roseburg**

Councilor Victoria Hawks

**Silverton**

Councilor Jason Freilinger

**St. Helens**

Councilor Susan Conn

**The Dalles**

Councilor Taner Elliot  
Councilor Dan Spatz

**Toledo City**

Mayor Billie Jo Smith

**Yachats**

Mayor Ronald Bean  
Council President Greg Scott  
Councilor Sandra Dunn  
Councilor Barbara Frye  
Councilor Max Glenn

**Waldport**

Councilor Paulina Gates  
Councilor Jack Richardson