BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

OF OREGON

U	M 1452	
In the Matter of)	
)	•
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION)	
OF OREGON)	The Environmental Law
Investigation into Pilot Programs to)	Alliance Worldwide (ELAW)
demonstrate the use and effectiveness of)	Response to Motion Filed by RNP
Volumetric Incentive Rates for Solar)	and CUB
Photovoltaic Energy Systems.)	

The Environmental Law Alliance World (ELAW) opposes the motion by the Renewable Northwest Project (RNP) and the Citizen's Utility Board (CUB) requesting an order allowing another round of opening and closing comments on the issue of solar cost data. ELAW agrees with statements made in the Oregonians for Renewable Energy Policy's (OREP's) response to the motion.

ELAW wants to ensure Oregon's pilot solar feed-in tariff program is launched as soon as possible. Reopening the docket could lead to delay in implementing the program. RNP and CUB request opening the docket to allow them to submit cost data. However, all parties had an opportunity to submit cost data before closing comments were due on February 12. OREP, working with several other parties including ELAW, went to substantial effort to gather cost data and analyze it. OREP requested a workshop for the parties to discuss this data. Several parties presented cost data at that workshop. The Commission requested parties to address this cost data in closing arguments, which several parties did. Clearly, there has been ample opportunity to present and discuss cost data. Opening the record now to allow parties to present evidence that appears to have been available when the record was open, will require all the parties to invest more time and expense. Even if the moving parties want to present a month's worth of new data, it does not justify reopening the record. ELAW's own investigations demonstrate only a minor change in prices that does not warrant a change in rate, particularly given that prices will continue to fluctuate. If the docket is reopened, several parties are likely to offer their own cost data, which will lead (again) to long discussions about which data is most accurate and what inputs may have skewed certain data presented.

This is a pilot program. The program as recommended by Commission Staff includes periodic review of rates. The record needs to be closed on this issue at some point in time. If prices go up in the next 30 days, will there be another motion to reopen the docket?

RNP states in its motion that RNP "along with several other parties including Staff and CUB, is concerned that the installed-cost data used to develop Staff's proposed VIRs may not

reflect the current market trends in Oregon." ELAW has not heard any concerns from Staff about the data used to develop a proposed VIR.

ELAW urges the Commission to deny the motion to reopen the docket, which would burden parties with the expense of re-arguing issues that have already been addressed. We urge the Commission to keep the docket closed and move forward to launch the program as quickly as possible.

MILANIVA

Sincerely,

Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that on March 25, 2010, a true and correct copy of the Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide's response to RNP and CUB's motion to reopen the docket in UM 1452 was served on the parties listed below. Service was by First Class U.S. mail to all parties unless they have waived paper service. Service to parties who waived paper service (indicated by W) was by electronic mail.

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