

I served Adam Bless with Oregon Public Utility with a filing related to docket # 1538 on 6/23/14.

/s/ Bruce Fife

# Local 99

American Federation of Musicians • AFL - CIO / CLC

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advocacy  
unity



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June 30, 2014

To whom it may concern;

My name is Bruce Fife and I am President of the American Federation of Musicians, Local 99 (Musician's Union). I am writing to provide supplemental information to the request for extension of the Solar Payment Option deadline that was submitted by our contractor on this project, Synchro Solar. The Docket # is UM1538.

Given my conversation with Adam Bless, I certainly understand the PUC's hesitancy to provide for extensions, but in this case, we feel it is warranted due to a number of circumstances that were out of our control. While the request from Greg Kamps laid out some of the challenges, he is relatively new to the process and was not aware of all the extenuating circumstances that contributed to our delay.

First and foremost, were the challenges with the funding. When we signed up for this program, all our funding was in place and we were ready to go, with a planned summer/fall of 2013 completion date. That said, the lottery did not go in our favor, we were denied access to the program, and were put on the waiting list. That was April of 2013. In June, someone must have withdrawn from the list, as we were notified that we were now eligible to participate in the program.

By the time this happened, the funder had invested their money elsewhere, could not participate in this project as originally planned, and so we were forced to restart the funding process. We are a nonprofit organization, and because of that, in addition to the overall complexity of this process and several other bumps in the road, the time line continued to get pushed back. We have invested in accountants, attorneys and worked hand in hand with Syncro Solar to move this project forward, but it just took longer than we wanted in putting all the pieces back together after the initial denial.

In speaking to the complexity of the process, at every juncture, it was difficult to understand how to move forward and what was allowable. Nothing was easy and no one seemed to be able to give us definitive answers to our challenges. I do believe that if this project had gone through with our funding in place as originally planned, we might not have had the same problems, but with the combination of the investor and inclusion of funds from the Musicians Union, it got substantially more complicated and difficult as we strived to meet every guideline.

Lastly, while Greg Kamps made the extension request date July 30, and with PUC Board meeting taking place on July 22<sup>nd</sup>, that seems to be cutting it very close. If you grant this extension, I think August 31<sup>st</sup> is a more viable date. Please understand how important this project is to us. We have worked with a large group of interested and invested parties that all want to bring this to completion so that we can take what we've learned and promote it to other parties. Our delays were legitimate, as sometimes happens in construction projects, especially when there are so many specific guidelines that must be followed and with the number of people involved in this project.

Thank you for your consideration.

/s/Bruce Fife  
President, AFM, Local 99