Solar Incentives Report for HB2941

Dear Stakeholders,

The 2015 Oregon legislature enacted House Bill 2941, which directs the Oregon Public Utility Commission (OPUC or Commission) to evaluate and make recommendations about programs that incentivize the development and use of solar photovoltaic energy systems. The Commission must submit the report to the Legislature no later than September 15, 2016.

In early 2016, the Oregon legislature adopted Senate Bill 1547 and House Bill 4037. SB 1547 eliminates the Solar Capacity Standard and otherwise changes Oregon's renewable energy policy in several significant ways and House Bill 4037 requires the Oregon Business Development Department to establish a program to incentivize the generation of electricity derived from solar energy. Because of changes made in the 2016 session, the Commission likely will focus the report's analysis and recommendations on the other remaining solar programs within the context of the new laws and policies.

The Commission is holding a special public meeting on Monday, May 9, 2016, from 9:30 to 11:30 am at the OPUC to hear stakeholders' views on which solar photovoltaic programs should remain unchanged, which programs should be modified, and which programs should be discontinued and why. The Commission is particularly interested in hearing stakeholders' views on net metering, the Energy Trust of Oregon, and Oregon state tax credits, as well as any other comments the stakeholders want to bring forward.

If you are interested in speaking on these topics at the special public meeting, please email Cindy Dolezel no later than May 5, 2016, to indicate your interest and briefly describe your intended comments. We will attempt to accommodate all stakeholders that wish to speak at the workshop, but may contact stakeholders with common recommendations to ask that they designate one representative speaker.

The Commission will issue an agenda prior to the special public meeting indicating the order of speakers, and if there are many speakers, the time allotted to each one.

Sincerely,

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