

4918 Gravelly Beach Loop
Olympia Washington, 98502
30 November 2005

Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development
Washington Utilities and Transportation Committee
Office of the Governor, The Honorable Christine Gregoire
Olympia, Washington 98504

Subject: Support for the immediate implementation of SB 5101

We believe renewable energy is an important source of power for the future in the state of Washington and that implementation of SB 5101 benefits everyone. We have our own residential grid-tied solar project designed to show that solar power production, like charity, begins at home.

We started in 2004 and found we were breaking new ground with our public electrical utility and the state electrical inspector with our grid-tied 2.7 KW PV System. This small system is carefree, has no batteries or other maintenance. The sun comes out and we generate electricity for our needs with the extra flowing back into the utility grid. Puget Sound Energy (PSE) has developed processes for the assignment and installation of the grid-tied meter that reads outgoing as well as incoming watts and provides us with a monthly statement. The State Electrical Inspector volunteered to inspect my system, as it was new to him and fairly new to the department.

Our data demonstrates that even in Olympia Washington, Solar energy is profitable. We are currently producing approximately 23.4% of our annual electrical energy needs. During the longer daylight months, we send a steady number of KWs back to the grid each day.

Our PV system components cost \$14,817. PSE provided a rebate of \$1,417.50 (California and New Jersey offer far greater rebate percentage to their residential customers). Our equipment included hefty shipping costs since none of the components are made in Washington. Our investment are sunk costs and whatever can be obtained will help our Rate of Return; however, to encourage more individuals to commit to producing clean renewable solar energy, there needs to be additional incentives.

We followed SB 5101 and SB 5111 through the legislative process with great expectations that Washington State government would take the lead with incentives to support solar power for the benefits of our citizens, our business climate and the environment. We urge the immediate implementation of the customer interconnection to the utilities part of the bill since standards already exist for residential solar systems.

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cc: Mike Nelson