

Dear Folks,

I have been involved in the solar industry in WA state since 1987, when I founded Winter Sun Design. I design new homes and remodels/additions utilizing both passive and active solar systems. I am a founding board member of the Seattle chapter of the NW Eco-Building Guild. I am also a founding board member and past president of Solar WA, the state chapter of the American Solar Energy Society. I have been teaching solar classes at the Phinney Neighborhood Center and the UW Experimental College for 16 years, and have presented countless talks on solar energy and green design all over the Northwest. I was published twice last year in natl. and intl. magazines, and presented 3 workshops, put on by utilities and governmental agencies, last year with over 300 attendees.

I have wide knowledge of the solar industry and it's momentum and possibilities in this state. It is poised for explosive growth! The laws passed last year, SB5101 and SB5111 were big steps on the road to an alternative energy future. Jeff Morris' 11th hour amendments slowed that momentum to a crawl. They confused people and made any real progress impossible. Luckily the federal tax credits helped keep up our steam. Hamstringing implementation of our laws by attaching interconnection standards for 25 kW to 1 mW systems was irresponsible and unconscionable from someone who purports to be a renewable energy advocate, and a friend of economic growth. Those standards for large scale systems need to be stripped away from the 25 kW and smaller residential scale system interconnection standards. Utilities are prepared to institute the standards for residential scale systems now. Large scale system standards will take much longer to agree upon, since engineering is required and very site specific. Those standards could take years.

SB5101 and SB5111 were voted into law unanimously (except for 1 vote) in both houses, by our elected officials. Please don't let the individual agenda and ego of 1 politician stop the laws that could provide such huge benefits to our state and our planet.

Please do all you can to implement rules that will enable our solar laws to take effect as soon as possible. Mike Nelson can be trusted to be a big help in this regard.

Best energy,

Chris Herman, owner, Winter Sun Design

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[www.wintersundesign.com](http://www.wintersundesign.com)

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Past President, Solar Washington Assoc.

[www.solarwashington.org](http://www.solarwashington.org)

Co-Founder, NW Eco-Building Guild

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