

State House signals support of subsidy for large solar projects

By HILLARY BORRUD
Capital Bureau



The Outback project in southern Oregon, east of Christmas Valley. The five-megawatt project provides power for Portland General Electric.

Courtesy of Obsidian Renewables

SALEM — State House lawmakers from both sides of the aisle have signaled their support for a bill that would encourage large solar projects in Oregon.

The House Committee on Energy and Environment voted unanimously on Thursday to send the bill to the budget writing Joint Committee on Ways and Means.

House Bill 4037 would create a state subsidy of half a cent per kilowatt hour of energy generated from qualified projects. The subsidy would last five years.

Legislative staff have yet to put a price tag on the legislation, but a solar industry representative who drafted the bill estimated it could cost \$5.7 million. The money would come from the state general fund.

It would not be the first Oregon incentive for solar projects: The state issued more than \$50 million in business energy tax credits for solar between 2006 and 2014, according to data from the Oregon Department of Energy. Still, Environment Oregon state director Rikki Seguin told lawmakers that only 0.02 percent of the state's energy comes from the sun.

David Brown, a senior principal at Obsidian Finance Group LLC in Lake Oswego, drafted the bill with input from other interested parties. Brown said the company has built the state's three largest solar projects, and plans to build another large project in southern Oregon by the end of this year.

Brown said House Bill 4037 would provide much smaller incentives for solar projects, which makes sense because prices have decreased. His company developed the 5 megawatt Outback project in southern Oregon, which received a \$10 million business energy tax credit. Brown said the production sub-

sidy would provide a total of \$250,000 to \$300,000 to a similarly sized project.

"When the (business energy tax credit) died, the solar program for larger projects stopped," Brown said. "And so ironically, the (business energy tax credit) hurt solar development more than it helped it ... I think this bill is a recognition that a small amount of targeted investment paid only for guaranteed results is still a good idea in Oregon. But it took a long time for the dark cloud of the (business energy tax credit) to start to clear away."

The bill does contain language intended to ensure benefits go only to projects that actually produce energy. If a project sits idle and does not produce energy, the state would reduce the length of the subsidy under the bill. Projects that do not produce power within two years would be kicked out of the program, under an amendment added

to the bill before lawmakers voted it out of committee.

Solar project developers would have only until Jan. 2, 2017 to apply for the program, and the subsidy would be limited to the first 150 megawatts of solar projects to be accepted into the program. The subsidy would only be available for 2 to 10 megawatt projects in Oregon.

The program would sunset in 2023. Any one program participant can only get the subsidy for up to 35 megawatts of solar.

State Rep. Cliff Bentz, R-Ontario, was one of the Republicans who voted to move the bill out of the House Committee on Energy and Environment. Bentz said the solar subsidy would be key to ensuring solar projects are

built in Oregon, if lawmakers pass a bill this session to double the state's renewable energy mandate for the state's two largest utilities, PacifiCorp and Portland General Electric.

"If (the renewable energy bill) passes, there is going to be a lot of green energy needed," Bentz said. "We would of course want to see as much of that developed in Oregon as we possibly could."

Brown said it was not surprising the bill has bipartisan support.

"Most of the economic development will occur in the sunny part of the state, which is rural," Brown said.

The Capital Bureau is a collaboration between EO Media Group and Pamplin Media Group.

IRS on the line looking for money? Most likely a scam

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Treasury Department has a message for taxpayers getting calls from the IRS demanding immediate payment: Hang up.

Those aggressive, threatening calls are coming from phone scammers. And they are successful, too, costing more than 5,000 victims more than \$26.5 million since October 2013. About 900,000 scammer contacts were reported during that period.

The callers fraudulently claim to be IRS officials and demand that taxpayers immediately send them payment. They often have some personal information about the person they're calling and threaten criminal charges unless immediate payment is made.

"This scam has proven to be the largest of its kind that we have ever seen," said

J. Russell George, Treasury Department inspector general for tax administration. "It is critical that all taxpayers continue to be wary of unsolicited telephone calls and e-mails from individuals claiming to be IRS and Treasury employees."

The agency has responded with public service announcements reminding people that the IRS sends letters rather than calling taxpayers.

"If someone unexpectedly calls claiming to be from the IRS and uses threatening language if you do not pay immediately, that is a sign that it is not the IRS calling, and your cue to hang up," George said.

The agency recommends taxpayers who are contacted by phone scammers fill out an "IRS impersonation scam" form on the Treasury inspector general website, www.tigta.gov, or call Treasury officials at 800-366-4484.

Five elk killed in crash near Cullaby Lake

By KYLE SPURR
The Daily Astorian

Five elk were killed after being struck by a vehicle early Saturday morning on U.S. Highway 101 near Cullaby Lake Lane.

A Seaside man was driving a 2005 GMC Yukon on the highway just after 1 a.m. when he came around the curve in the road and crashed into the elk. Two elk were killed by the impact and three had to be dispatched after the crash.

Sgt. Joe Warwick, from the Oregon State Police Fish and Wildlife Division, responded

to the scene along with Warrenton Police and the Oregon Department of Transportation.

Warwick said the deceased elk were four cows and one calf. They were from a large herd that roams between Camp Rilea Armed Forces Training Center and Cullaby Lake.

As unfortunate as the deadly crash was for the elk, Warwick said, the impact will be minimal on the large herd.

The GMC Yukon was totaled from the crash. The driver was not injured.

Officials cleared the scene in a half hour. None of the elk meat was salvaged.

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TV LISTINGS

Evening listings
TUESDAY
FEBRUARY 9, 2016

MONDAY EVENING												FEBRUARY 8	
A	L	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
2	KATU	(2) KATU News at 6		Jeopardy!	Wheel of Fortune	The Bachelor (N)				Castle "Tone Death" (N)		KATU News at 11	(35) Jimmy Kimmel
3	KRCW	(3) Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Modern Family	Modern Family	Crazy Ex-Girlfriend (N)		Jane Virgin "Chapter Thirty-Three" (N)		KGW News at 10	(35) Access H.	Met Your Mother	Met Your Mother
4	KOMO	(4) KOMO 4 News		Wheel of Fortune	Jeopardy!	The Bachelor (N)				Castle "Tone Death" (N)		KOMO 4 News	(35) Jimmy Kimmel
5	KING	(5) NBC Nightly News	KING 5 News	KING 5 News	Evening	Superstore (N)	Telenovela (N)	The Biggest Loser "Makeover Week" (N)	The contestants are given makeovers. (N)	KING 5 News	(35) Tonight Show		
6	KOIN	(6) KOIN 6 News at 6	CBS Evening News	Extra	Ent. Tonight	Supergirl (N)		Scorpion "Fractured" (N)		NCIS: LA "Matryoshka" Pt. 1 of 2 (N)		KOIN 6 News @ 11	(35) S.Colbert
7	KIRO	(7) KIRO 7 News	CBS Evening News	The Insider	Ent. Tonight	Supergirl (N)		Scorpion "Fractured" (N)		NCIS: LA "Matryoshka" Pt. 1 of 2 (N)		KIRO News	(35) S.Colbert
8	KGW	(8) KGW News at 6:00 p.m.		Live at Seven	Inside Edition	Superstore (N)	Telenovela (N)	The Biggest Loser "Makeover Week" (N)	The contestants are given makeovers. (N)	KGW News at 11	(35) Tonight Show		
10	KOPB	(10) This Old House	Business (N)	PBS NewsHour		Antique "Little Rock (Hour Three)" (N)		Oregon Experience "Oregon Field Guide		Antiques Rd. "Atlanta (Hour One)"		Independent L. "A Ballerina's Tale" (N)	
12	KPTV	(12) 6 O'Clock News		Family Feud	Family Feud	The X-Files "Home Again" (N)		Lucifer (N)		10 O'Clock News		11 O'Clock News	Loves Ray
13	KPDx	(13) Mike & Molly	Mike & Molly	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	FOX 12's 8 O'Clock News on PDX-TV		FOX 12's 9 O'Clock News on PDX-TV		Law & Order: S.V.U. "Pursuit"		Law & Order: S.V.U. "Bully"	
14	KCPQ	(14) Name Game	Modern Family	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	The X-Files "Home Again" (N)		Lucifer (N)		Q13 News at 10		Q13 News	Modern Family
20	TBS	(20) American Dad	American Dad	Family Guy	Family Guy	Modern Family	American Dad (N)	Angie Tribeca	Family Guy "The Simpsons Guy"	Full Frontal (P) (N)		Conan (N)	
22	KZJQ	(22) Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	The Simpsons	The Simpsons	Modern Family	Modern Family	Q13 News at 9	Family Guy "The Simpsons Guy"	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Friends	Friends
29	ESPN	(29) NCAA Basketball	Texas at Oklahoma (L)			SportsCenter		SportsCenter		Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Friends	Friends
30	ESPN2	(30) NCAA Basketball	Maryland at Ohio State (L)			College Basketball	NBA Tonight	College Basketball	Jalen & Jacoby (N)	NBA Tonight	NFL Live		30 for 30
31	NICK	(31) Henry Danger	The Thundermans	Talia in the Kitchen		iCarly	iCarly	Full House	Full House	Full House	Full House	Friends	Friends
32	DISN	(32) Bunk'd	K.C. Undercover	"Runaway Robot"	Mako Mermaids	*** Mulan (1998, Animated) Eddie Murphy, Ming-Na Wen. (35) K.C. Underc.		Recovery Road "Surrender" (N)		Live and Maddie	Austin & Ally	Bunk'd	Girl Meets World
34	FAM	(34) (5:00) ** The Parent Trap '98	Dennis Quaid, Natasha Richardson, Lindsay Lohan.			The Fosters "If and When" (N)		Recovery Road "Surrender" (N)		The Fosters "If and When"		The 700 Club	
35	FMC	(35) (5:00) 2 Guns (13) Denzel Washington.		(10) ** 2 Guns (2013, Action) Mark Wahlberg, Paula Patton, Denzel Washington.		*** Jurassic Park (1993, Sci-Fi) Laura Dern, Jeff Goldblum, Sam Neill.		*** Sweet Home Alabama (02) Candice Bergen, Josh Lucas, Reese Witherspoon.		*** Savages (2012, Crime Story) Taylor Kitsch, Blake Lively, Aaron Taylor-Johnson.		War and Peace "Episode Four"	War and Peace "Episode Four"
36	LIFE	(36) (5:00) The First Wives Club	Goldie Hawn.	War and Peace "Episode Three" Natasha starts to doubt Andrei's love for her.		War and Peace "Episode Four" Pierre gets a firsthand look at war. (N)		War and Peace "Episode Four" Pierre gets a firsthand look at war. (N)		War and Peace "Episode Four" Pierre gets a firsthand look at war. (N)		War and Peace "Episode Four"	War and Peace "Episode Four"
38	RST	(38) Ken Griffey Jr. 1/2	Ken Griffey Jr. 2/2	Mariners Mondays "Last at Bat Wins Montage" (N)						UF 159 Jones takes on Sonnen in mixed martial arts action.			
39	FOX	(39) UFC 196				Fox Sports Live		TMZ Sports (N)	Best I Heard (N)	Fox Sports Live		Fox Sports Live	Fox Sports Live
43	SPIKE	(43) Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops
44	COM	(44) Futurama	Futurama	South Park	South Park 1/3	South Park 2/3	South Park 3/3	Archer	Archer	South Park	South Park	The Daily Show (N)	Nightly Show (N)
45	HIST	(45) Pawn Stars	Pawn Stars	Pawn Stars	Pawn Stars	Pawn Stars	Pawn Stars	War and Peace "Episode Four" Pierre gets a firsthand look at war. (N)		War and Peace "Episode Four" Pierre gets a firsthand look at war. (N)		(05) True Monsters	
46	A&E	(46) The First 48		First 48 "Lost Highway/ Out for Murda"	First 48 "Bad Reputation/ Deadly Party"	War and Peace "Episode Four" Pierre gets a firsthand look at war. (N)		War and Peace "Episode Four" Pierre gets a firsthand look at war. (N)		War and Peace "Episode Four" Pierre gets a firsthand look at war. (N)		The First 48 "Teardrops/ Almost Home"	
47	TLC	(47) Dateline NBC "The Mystery Man"		48 Hours: Evidence "Highway of Tears"	48 Hours "Reasonable Doubt"	48 Hours "Reasonable Doubt"		48 Hours Mystery "The Guessing Game"		48 Hours "The Sugar Land Conspiracy"		48 Hours: Evidence "Highway of Tears"	
49	DISC	(49) Fast N' Loud		Fast N' Loud	Fast N' Loud: Revved Up (N)	Fast N' Loud		Fast N' Loud		Diesel Brothers (N)		Fast N' Loud	
49	NGEO	(49) Wicked Tuna "Something to Prove"		The Great Human Race "Dawn"	Wicked Tuna "Something to Prove"	Wicked Tuna "Tuna and Tequila" (N)		Wicked Tuna "Tuna and Tequila" (N)		The Great Human Race "Fire"		Wicked Tuna "Tuna and Tequila"	
50	TNT	(50) (5:00) Cowboys and Aliens	Daniel Craig.	*** The Dark Knight Rises (2012, Action) Christian Bale, Tom Hardy, Anne Hathaway.		Full Frontal (P) (N)		Full Frontal (P) (N)		Full Frontal (P) (N)		Daredevil (2003, Fantasy) Ben Affleck.	
51	AMC	(51) (5:30) *** Jumanji	(1995, Fantasy) Bonnie Hunt, Kirsten Dunst, Robin Williams.	*** Jurassic Park (1993, Sci-Fi) Laura Dern, Jeff Goldblum, Sam Neill.		*** Sweet Home Alabama (02) Candice Bergen, Josh Lucas, Reese Witherspoon.		*** Sweet Home Alabama (02) Candice Bergen, Josh Lucas, Reese Witherspoon.		*** Sweet Home Alabama (02) Candice Bergen, Josh Lucas, Reese Witherspoon.		Jurassic Park (1993, Sci-Fi) Sam Neill.	
52	USA	(52) NCIS "Love & War"		NCIS "Deliverance"		WWE Monday Night Raw		WWE Monday Night Raw		WWE Monday Night Raw		(05) Colony "Blind Spot"	
53	FOOD	(53) Guy's Game "Love is in the Aisle"		Diners, Drive-Ins "Diners, Drive-Ins"	Kids Baking "Candyman" (N)	Cake Wars "Valentine's Day" (N)		Cake Wars "The Knot"		Cake Wars "The Knot"		Chopped "Fake Cake, Real Stakes"	
54	HGTV	(54) Love It or List It		Love It or List It "Separate Spaces"	Love It or List It "Functioning for Four"	Ellen's Design "Around the World" (N)		House Hunters (N)	House Hunters (N)	House Hunters (N)	House Hunters (N)	Tiny House Hunters	Tiny House Hunters
55	FX	(55) (5:30) ** Admission (2013, Comedy) Paul Rudd, Gloria Reuben, Tina Fey.		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon	Anderson Cooper 360	CNN Newsroom		CNN Newsroom		CNN Newsroom		CNN Newsroom	
57	CNN	(57) Anderson Cooper 360		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon	Anderson Cooper 360	CNN Newsroom		CNN Newsroom		CNN Newsroom		CNN Newsroom	
58	FNC	(58) The Kelly File with Megyn Kelly		Hannity	The O'Reilly Factor	The Kelly File with Megyn Kelly		Hannity		Hannity		On the Record	
61	CNBC	(61) Shark Tank		Shark Tank	The Profit "Farmgirl Flowers"	The Profit "Mr. Green Tea"		The Profit "Mr. Green Tea"		The Profit "Mr. Green Tea"		Paid Program	Paid Program
63	BRVA	(63) Vanderpump R. "Leis, Liquor and Lies"		Vanderpump Rules "The Bitch is Back"	Vanderpump Rules Social (N)	Vanderpump R. "Pucker and Pout" (N)		WatchWhat (N)	Tour Group (N)	Vanderpump Rules "Pucker and Pout"		Vanderpump Rules "Pucker and Pout"	
64	TCM	(64) (5:00) Baby Doll (56, Dra) Karl Malden.		*** Paton (1970, War) Karl Malden, Stephen Young, George C. Scott.		*** The Hustler (1961, Drama) Jackie Gleason, George C. Scott, Paul Newman.		*** The Hustler (1961, Drama) Jackie Gleason, George C. Scott, Paul Newman.		*** The Hustler (1961, Drama) Jackie Gleason, George C. Scott, Paul Newman.		*** The Hustler (1961, Drama) Jackie Gleason, George C. Scott, Paul Newman.	
65	SYFY	(65) ** Oz the Great and Powerful (2013, Adventure) Mila Kunis, Rachel Weisz, James Franco.				Magicians "The World in the Walls" (N)		Magicians "The World in the Walls" (N)		Magicians "The World in the Walls" (N)		The Magicians "The World in the Walls"	
162	RFD	(162) American Rancher	Red Steagall	Horse Master	Inside Reining	Craig Cameron	Rural Eve. News	Rural America "Live"		American Rancher	Red Steagall	Product Showcase	

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