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Dear Solar Project Partners,

On Wednesday, January 28, 2004, House Committee members of the Erb Memorial Union (EMU) Board considered project summaries of the partners involved with the Solar EMU Project. These partners include EMU staff, students from the Ecological Design Center (EDC) and EWEB.

While there does exist some difference of opinion regarding the details of the project to date, especially concerning fiscal analyses, the House committee and all partners involved gained consensus to continue Phase II of this photovoltaic (PV) project. In light of constraints at the EMU location that have precluded project completion for more than a year, a decision was made to recommend relocation of the project to a new facility. The House Committee also voted to recommend the EMU transfer the BETC tax credit to the EDC for a dollar amount of \$1500.

Reasons for these recommendations include the following:

- The EDC committed to complete this solar project for student benefit. This student effort is empowered by the budget allocated for this purpose.
- The original location planned for the solar panels was the EMU Ballroom roof. An assessment conducted by an engineering firm found that the current roof structure could not bear the additional weight of a large array of PV panels.
- There are no other sites at the EMU that are ideal for solar energy production. Challenges to identifying ideal sites include master planning that involves panel relocation or changing sun patterns, solar access/no shading, and a large roof area.
- Roof constraints are considerable with a solar project. Each kW (kilowatt) of panels takes up 100 square feet of roof space if they lay flat. Since panels ideally mount at a 30-degree angle to capture the most direct beam of sunlight, they need to be spaced so they do not shade one another—which often requires greater area.
- A sustainability project requires flexibility. In order to negotiate with a potential donor to co-sponsor this project, project partners need to identify a roof area that can accommodate a large, long-term installation (expected panel life is 30 years).
- Completing the solar project at a new location will meet the spirit of the original proposal as all the fiscal benefit beyond maintenance will directly offset fees students pay for electricity.

The Ecological Design Center wishes to make it clear that a decision to continue Phase II of this solar project at a new location does not represent a conclusion of the EDC partnership with the EMU, nor their exclusion as a project partner. The EDC expects to continue to meet the needs of the EMU in relation to concerns about Phase I, the Solar EMU Project. However, Phase II of this project requires all partners share an understanding of time constraints and an understanding that efficient decision-making assists completion of an efficient project.

In that the EMU cannot identify an ideal location for Phase II at this time on their facility, it is a show of good faith to advise the project continue elsewhere. The transfer of the tax credit will allow the project to go forward without direct EMU participation, while other UO partners will continue to keep EMU interests in mind as the project continues at another facility and negotiations to do so take place.

Current time constraints:

- February 29, 2004 EWEB Deadline to confirm project continuation
- February 6, 2004 Half-way mark for BETC tax credit
- February 6, 2005 Project completion Deadline for BETC tax credit

Here are a few items of input from the EMU Board and the EMU House committee needed in regard to Phase I:

- Installation of a monitoring kiosk in the hall below the towers near the inverter to obtain data—review of proposal to be submitted
- Installation of benches on the South Balcony around the towers to make the towers more inviting—is this feasible?
- Placement of a simple plaque explaining the project on one of the towers has been suggested, your recommendations are welcome.

The EMU and other partners may consider nomination of a solar project liaison in order to assist with maintaining communication within this evolving partnership.

The Ecological Design Center seeks to create a collaborative effort to complete installation of a large photovoltaic panel array for the benefit of the University of Oregon. Therefore, we are looking forward to a decision at the February 4, 2004 EMU Board meeting that concurs with the recommendations of the House committee at their meeting January 28<sup>th</sup>. The continuation of this solar project at a new facility and the transfer the tax credit needs an EMU Board vote of support. This decision would be in line with the wishes of your fellow project partners and result in a positive vote of support.

Sincerely,

Pamela Reber  
Ecological Design Center  
Solar Project Coordinator