January 25, 2018

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National News

President Trump Approves Relief for U.S. Washing Machine and Solar Cell Manufacturers
U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer announced today that President Trump has approved recommendations to impose safeguard tariffs on imported large residential washing machines and imported solar cells and modules. USTR made the recommendations to the President based on consultations with the interagency Trade Policy Committee (TPC) in response to findings by the independent, bipartisan U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) that increased foreign imports of washers and solar cells and modules are a substantial cause of serious injury to domestic manufacturers – Official press release, January 22, 2018.
https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2018/january/president-trump-approves-relief-us#

President's Decision on Solar Tariffs is a Loss for America
The Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA) – the national trade association for the U.S. industry - and its members expressed disappointment in the decision by President Trump to impose 30 percent tariffs on imported solar cells and panels – Press release, SEIA , January 22, 2018.
https://www.seia.org/news/presidents-decision-solar-tariffs-loss-america

Dept. of Energy Plans on $3 Million Prize Competition for American-Made Solar Manufacturing
The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced a $3 million prize competition to reenergize innovation in U.S. solar manufacturing. The American Made Solar Prize will incentivize the nation's entrepreneurs to develop new processes and products that will reassert American leadership in the solar marketplace. This prize is in addition to total DOE funding of up to $400 million for solar projects and technologies in 2017. It will lower barriers American innovators face in reaching

manufacturing scale by accelerating the cycles of learning, while helping to create partnerships that connect entrepreneurs to the private sector and the network of DOE's national laboratories – To read more see *Solar Power World*, January 24, 2018.
https://www.solarpowerworldonline.com/2018/01/dept-energy-plans-3-million-prize-competition-american-made-solar-manufacturing/

Oregon News

Oregon Developer Reveals Plan to Build One of Nation's Biggest Solar Projects
David Brown, of Obsidian Renewables recently told the Business Journal he will soon file paperwork with the state's Energy Facility Siting Council for a 600-megawatt project in norther Lake County. It would be among the nation's largest solar power plants, and there's an intriguing twist to the proposal: battery storage, either packages the solar or as a stand-alone project at the high desert site. Brown said the project would cost between $800 million and $1.1 billion to build, depending on the size of the battery component – *Portland Business Journal*, *January* 11, 2018.
https://www.bizjournals.com/portland/news/2018/01/11/exclusive-oregon-developer-reveals-plan-to-build.html or here in PDF form

Policy Update 1.19.18
Due to the recent very low Resource Value of Solar (RVOS) values filed by all three Investor owned utilities (PGE, PacifiCorps, and Idaho Power); OSEIA has filed to intervene in three PUC RVOS dockets. RVOS is incredibly important to the solar industry as it will be used to set the community solar credit level - if the credit level is too low it could scuttle the program entirely. Don't think this can't happen as it has happened to the largest community solar program in the nation in CA. That program started several years ago and has nothing to show from it. This is exclusively due to the fact that their credit was set far too low. To read more see– SEIA, *Oregon Solar News*, January 19, 2018.
http://www.oseia.org/news/index.php?post_id=256&title=policy-update---11918

Multi-agency Built Environment Efficiency Working Group Supports Climate Actions
The Governor's Executive Order No. 17-20 focuses on the built environment – specifically, residential, commercial, and public buildings across the state. Emissions data show that residential and commercial buildings – especially their electricity and other energy consumption – are a large greenhouse gas contributor. Through a new ODOE-led working group, state agencies are already weighing how to meet the EO's requirements, which include: solar-ready buildings, EV-ready parking lots, zero-energy homes and more. Published January 22, 2018 on the Oregon Department of Energy website:
https://energyinfo.oregon.gov/2018/01/22/multi-agency-built-environment-efficiency-working-group-supports-climate-actions/

Washington News

Washington Solar Industry Remains Strong despite Imposition of Import Tariffs
Washington's solar industry remains strong in the face of the U.S. president's announcement this week to impose tariffs on imported solar cells and modules. Our state benefits from a diversified

and integrated solar industry that provides jobs in installation, manufacturing, distribution, engineering, marketing, sales, finance, software development, consulting, and education. Such economic diversity provides resilience from potential market disturbance from external forces. To read more see: Solar Installers of Washington website, January 23, 2018. http://www.solarinstallersofwa.org/siw-news/washington-solar-industry-remains-strong-despite-imposition-of-solar-import-tariffs

Solar Installers of Washington Welcomes New Executive Director

The Board of Directors of Solar Installers of Washington (SIW) is pleased to announce Allison Arnold has been named SIW's first Executive Director, effective January 2. Allison says she is honored to join Solar Installers of Washington (SIW) as the organization's first executive director. She brings to SIW nearly a decade of experience in renewable energy policy, marketing, and program management – Solar Installers of Washington website, January 3, 2018: http://www.solarinstallersofwa.org/siw-news

Technological Innovations

A New Battery Grid –Scale Energy Storage

Mengyu Yan, Shanyu Wang, and Professor Jihui Yang have published breakthrough research on the mechanics of a zinc-ion, aqueous-electrolyte battery. Zinc-based models have the potential to be ideal for grid-scale energy storage, due to their high-performance, low-cost, safe, and environmentally-friendly characteristics – University of Washington *CEI News*, January, 23, 2018. http://www.cei.washington.edu/a-new-battery-for-grid-scale-energy-storage/

Want to Contribute? If you have information on events, publications or other solar topics that you would like mentioned in an upcoming issue of *Solar Newsbriefs*, please contact Anne Whitney at whitneya@energy.wsu.edu

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