



**HB 2745 / HB 2941-1 House Energy and Energy and Environment Committee**

**Michael W. Unger, President of Engineering for a Sustainable Future**

**Testimony for March 3, 2015 Hearing**

Engineers for a Sustainable Future (ESF) is a community of engineering professionals who share technical knowledge and skills to advocate for policies and practices that build a sustainable future. Our primary focus is on climate change. We favor a rapid transfer from fossil fuels to renewable energy.

We support HB as one of the many important steps that we must take to reduce our carbon footprint and create a sustainable world for our children and grandchildren.

**HB 2745 – Extension of the Solar Pilot Program.** We favor passage of HB 2745 to continue the current Solar Pilot Program (FIT) which ends in May. It is important to continue to build the infrastructure for clean, local energy. Continuation of the Solar Pilot Program will help drive down costs through market development. The pilot program has been successful and should be continued.

**HB 2941-1 – Community Solar Gardens.** Those of us who do not have a sunny roof which would allow us to participate in the solar Pilot Program are especially excited about HB 2941-1. Allowing utility customers to receive a utility bill credit for the energy produced by their subscription to a community owned project will encourage the development of solar energy. We note that solar Gardens have been successfully implemented in Colorado and Minnesota. We recommend that HB 2941-1 be passed as a companion to HB 2745.