

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Vote:	7 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Cameron, Davis, Frederick, Holvey, Thatcher, Unger, Clem
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Lynn Beaton, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	3/28, 4/16

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Adds solar thermal power plants to energy facility list requiring Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC) approval. Defines “solar photovoltaic power generation facility” using more than 100 acres of high-value farmland or arable land, or using more than 320 acres of other land, as energy facility requiring EFSC approval. Exempts facility established on site of decommissioned United States Air Force facility that has adequate transmission capacity to serve energy facility from EFSC approval. Defines “arable land.” Applies amendments in Act to energy site certificate applications submitted to EFSC after effective date of Act. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Acreage and capacity of solar energy facilities
- Differences between concentrating thermal and solar photovoltaic energy
- Appropriate land classifications for siting solar facilities
- Definitions of arable and non-arable land
- Requirements for siting through EFSC versus individual counties
- Decommissioned backscatter facility

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Amends “solar photovoltaic power generation facility” definition to include “320 acres located on any other land.” Exempts facility established on site of decommissioned United States Air Force facility that has adequate transmission capacity to serve energy facility from definition of energy facility. Deletes definition of “nonarable land.”

BACKGROUND: The state Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC), a seven-member board of appointed individuals associated with the Oregon Department of Energy, is responsible for permitting large energy facilities in Oregon. Smaller energy facilities are permitted by the county in which they are sited. The EFSC review process consolidates all state, city, and county standards and permits into a single review.

Currently, the authorizing statute regarding solar projects contains two inconsistent standards for determining jurisdiction. The first statute declares a “solar collecting facility using more than 100 acres of land” is under EFSC jurisdiction; the second asserts EFSC jurisdiction is triggered by a solar energy system with 105 MW peak capacity or greater.

House Bill 2820-B would clarify EFSC jurisdiction depending on type of solar energy facility and whether the proposed land is high value farmland, arable land, or other land. House Bill 2820-B would also exempt the decommissioned Christmas Valley Air Force Station facility in Lake County from EFSC jurisdiction.

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This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.