

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Do Pass with Amendments to the B-Engrossed Measure. (Printed C-Engrossed)
Vote:	5 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Bates, Hansell, Hass, Olsen, Dingfelder
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Beth Reiley, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	5/15, 5/20

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” requiring EFSC approval as (1) using more than 100 acres of high-value farmland; (2) 100 acres located on predominantly cultivated land or land that is predominantly composed of class I to IV soil; or (3) 320 acres located on any other land. Exempts from requirement for EFSC approval facility established on site of decommissioned United States Air Force facility that has adequate transmission capacity to serve energy facility. Applies amendments in Act to energy site certificate applications submitted to EFSC after effective date of Act. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Work group process for establishing concept
- Definition of arable land
- Potential for solar energy development in Oregon

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Replaces measure.

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 statute asserts EFSC jurisdiction is triggered by a solar energy system with 105 MW peak capacity or greater.

House Bill 2820 C would clarify EFSC jurisdiction depending on type of solar energy facility and whether the proposed site is high value farmland; located on predominantly cultivated land or land that is predominantly composed of class I to IV soil; or other land. House Bill 2820 C would also exempt the decommissioned Christmas Valley Air Force Station facility in Lake County from EFSC jurisdiction.