

April 4, 2017

Representative Brian Clem, Chair, Rep.BrianClem@oregonlegislature.gov
House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
hagnr.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov

Re: House Bill 3050

Dear Chairman Clem and Committee Members,

My name is Kathryn Jernstedt and I live at 8156 NE Mineral Springs Road, Carlton, on the Frank and Anna Jernstedt Century Farm. The family has farmed in Yamhill County since the 1880s and is deeply concerned about the preservation of Oregon's high value farmlands and EFU agricultural operations. I would like to testify with qualified support of HB 3050.

I support renewal energy efforts like solar facilities. However, they should not be permitted on high value farmlands. The incentives and nature of the construction are much more suited to "brown fields" like abandoned mills or other industrial locations. The highest best use of the solar energy on our foundational farm land is growing crops. This bill is a step in the right direction to provide guidance and analysis and to charge LCDC with rulemaking.

Solar is an emerging field with accompanying instability; globalization, evolving technology, vulnerability to prices in other markets, and changing tax policy to name a few. The industry is too new to have reliable data on service life and hazards of abandoned equipment. The legacy cost of old or unsuccessful technologies is well known. Small hydroelectric projects remain long after there is agreement that they are a liability for want of funds to decommission them. Enron taught us that even the most "blue chip" of utility operations can go under. I strongly urge that a bond or other financial instrument be required as a condition for any commercial solar generation

facility. My work experience has brought me into close contact with shuttering of lumber and paper mills. After the auction which never generates as much money as hoped, after the salvage crews have gone through, there is always more to be done to restore a site to usable condition. What is the surety that there will be resources to restore these sites to safe condition?

I live in a house built before rural electrification – gas pipes are still in some of the ceilings although it now has modern wiring. Family lore marks the arrival of electricity to the farm as the beginning point of so many positive changes. Renewable energy is another positive change. However, not the best use of the high value farmland which deserves our protection and preservation.

Please consider amending the bill to include language for decommissioning and restoration as well as removing solar arrays from the list of non-farm uses allowed in EFU zoned farmland. Thank you for your attention.

Kathryn Jernstedt
8156 NE Mineral Springs Road
Carlton, Oregon 97111