

Representative Clem and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 2023 for three reasons:

- 1) We don't need to put solar arrays on high value farmland to meet our renewable energy goals. We have already committed large areas to urban development that could provide sites for solar arrays. Rooftops and parking lots are barely utilized for these purposes at this time. In addition, Oregon's urban areas are well-served by existing transmission infrastructure, making the siting of new solar arrays within urban growth boundaries an efficient choice.
- 2) Though we are still awaiting the roll-out of rules for a statewide approach to Community Solar, this is an important policy direction adopted by the Legislature and could, once implemented fully, accelerate the provision of solar energy statewide. Siphoning off the demand for new solar to remote sites both increases the cost to all rate payers and decreases the likelihood that community solar in Oregon will become the significant resource that we and you hope it will in both our biggest and smallest Oregon communities.
- 3) Circumventing the Oregon Land Use program and Oregon Statewide Land Use Goals through this kind of legislative intervention is both bad for the land resources of the state and opens the door to further manipulation outside of the established processes for modifying land use objectives. Seeking and receiving special treatment, no matter how laudable the goal, only encourages others to do the same. As this committee is well aware, land is the infrastructure for agriculture. Oregon has worked hard to preserve its land resources for this purpose through careful and fact-based planning processes. Legislating a change to these high value farmlands undermines all of that, and ultimately the stability and integrity of agriculture.

Please do not pass HB 2023 out to the full House. It's bad policy, would set a bad precedent, and prematurely circumvents other possible solutions to the problem brought forth to your committee.

Thanks for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ethan Seltzer
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