

May 18,2017

Subject: Amendment to H B 2023 for May 18,2017 hearing.

The following comments, regarding the last minute amendment, by Blue Mountain Alliance are requested to be added to our previous comments submitted for the record for The hearing on HB 3456 on May18,2017.

First, the deletion of the Emergency Clause in the amended Bill is fully supported. This situation never warranted the use of the Emergency Clause in the first place.

The amended Bill is more devastating to our High Value Farm Lands than the original Bill. The acreage of High Value Farm lands that would be open to Solar development would be huge, It is estimated by County planning officials that 2/3 of High Value Farm lands in Umatilla county would be subject to Solar development If the amended version of this bill were to become law. This would be done without any Goal three process or local official scrutiny

What we have now is a bill that was bad, unacceptable, and not needed, that would deplete our High Value Farm Lands, without process, and amended it to the point where it would not only deplete our High Value Farm lands, it would produce devastating results. The Goal is to preserve our High Value Farm Lands, The Bill as proposed makes a mockery of the Stated goal.

It's amazing and discouraging that such a bill would even be proposed and offered for consideration by this committee.

As stated in our original comments, "Do What's Right and Reject this Bill"!

Dave Price for Blue Mountain Alliance