

HB 2023 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Agriculture and Natural Resources

Action Date: 04/18/17

Action: Without recommendation as to passage and be referred to Rules.

Vote: 8-0-1-0

Yeas: 8 - Barreto, Clem, Esquivel, McKeown, McLain, Power, Smith DB, Witt

Exc: 1 - Sprenger

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Restricts definition of high value farmland in Columbia Valley viticultural area to land with a valid attached water right certificate. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Oregon renewable portfolio standards goals
- Process for siting solar energy on land zoned exclusive farm use
- Columbia Valley topography and proposed project

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Under current Oregon law, high-value farmland is defined as land in an exclusive farm use zone or a mixed farm and forest zone, land west of U.S. Highway 101 that is composed predominantly of specified soils, and within specified regions.

House Bill 2023 would require the Columbia Valley region viticultural area to have a valid water right certificate to qualify as high-value farmland.