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and  
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## **Testimony**

### **House Committee on Energy and Environment**

**February 28, 2019**

### **Oregon Farm Bureau Opposes HB 2329**

Chair Helm and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 2329. By way of background, Oregon Farm Bureau is Oregon's largest grassroots agriculture association, representing nearly 7,000 farming and ranching families across the state. Our mission is to promote educational improvement, economic opportunity, and social advancement for our members and the farming, ranching, and natural resources industry as a whole. HB 2329 would allow large-scale solar projects on non-high value arable and non-arable lands to forum shop between the Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC) and local county governments when siting their projects. We believe that large scale solar projects are most appropriately analyzed through the EFSC process and urge you to oppose this bill.

Our members were among the original supporters of the land use system, and believe that robust land use planning is important to ensuring the economic and environmental future of our state. The state specifically created the Energy Facility Siting Council as a way to ensure a robust siting process for large-scale energy projects, which may have impacts that cross county lines and which are so complex that the counties lack the resources to fully review and analyze them. While we have our issues with EFSC, we believe it is a more rigorous process with more resources to devote to the level of review required of these programs. Many counties are simply not equipped for this review, and the EFSC process was designed for these complex, large-scale utility projects.

In recent years, the level of solar development on farm and rangeland has exploded, and these projects have the ability to have a significant individual and cumulative impact on our state's agricultural economy. The siting process for them should remain robust, and at the mercy of the resources of any particular county. For this reason, we urge you to oppose HB 2329.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments, and please contact Mary Anne Cooper at [maryanne@oregonfb.org](mailto:maryanne@oregonfb.org) with any questions.