



June 10th, 2019

To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means - Subcommittee On Natural Resources

RE: HB 2329

Dear Co-Chairs Taylor and Reardon and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this matter and to voice our concern regarding the potential negative impacts of HB 2329. My husband and I reside in Yamhill County and we own Atticus Wine. While we completely support renewable energy, including photovoltaic solar, we strongly believe that we need to preserve high value farmland for agricultural production and we also need to preserve the beautiful character of our rural communities. We fear that HB 2329 could create unintended consequences and provide an easier avenue to allow more development of large-scale energy facilities on agricultural lands, threatening our vibrant agricultural and agri-tourism economies, as well as our wine industry.

While the amendments to this bill represent a small improvement to the original versions, we still believe this bill represents a risk, in particular to the Willamette Valley which has been targeted for multiple industrial solar facility applications due to the lower infrastructure costs and overall financial benefits. The Willamette Valley is a unique area that should be protected and should be removed from the umbrella of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB 2329.

Best regards,

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