

## Green Joan

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**From:** Jim Gilbert <jgilbert@oregonsbest.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 10, 2019 12:51 PM  
**To:** JWMNR Exhibits  
**Subject:** Please Vote No on HB 2329

FROM: Jim Gilbert, Chair, 1000 Friends Farmer Advisory Committee, owner/operator Northwood Nursery

TO: Joint Subcommittee on Natural Resources

SUBJECT: Opposition to HB 2329

Dear Co-Chair Senator Taylor, Co-Chair Representative Reardon and members of the Joint Committee on Ways & Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources:

The farmers, ranchers and foresters of our Committee are concerned that House Bill 2329 does not balance Oregon's commitment to renewable energy and and it's commitment to protecting our farm, ranch and forest land. Our committee encourages you to vote NO on HB2329. Shifting certain large-scale renewable energy siting decisions from the Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC) to local counties is a dangerous proposition for the preservation of our best farmland and the continued success of Oregon's agricultural economy.

We need statewide oversight from the EFSC to protect farmland and ensure responsible renewable energy development.

As the world's climate changes, Oregon's productive farm and ranch lands, and particularly our high-value soils, with their ability to grow over 200 crops, will become even more valuable to our state and country. In addition, our irreplaceable farmland is expected to play a significant role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions through carbon sequestration. There are hundreds of thousands of acres of low value soils in Oregon and thousands of rooftops where solar installations are most appropriate. Large-scale solar energy projects on our most fertile soils threaten Oregon's large agricultural economy and should be subject to statewide review.

Statewide oversight of our land use planning system and, in this case, large scale energy projects, has protected our valuable farm and ranch land for over 40 years. It has enabled agriculture to be the second largest income producing sector in Oregon's economy. We need continued state support for preserving our farm, ranch and forest land. Without it, our ability to produce food and other valuable crops will be threatened.

**The Farmer Advisory Committee urges you to vote NO on HB 2329.** I would also like to offer the Joint Committee on Ways & Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources, state agencies, and bill sponsors the support and collaboration of the Farmer Advisory Committee on this bill and future bills relating to siting renewable energy on agricultural lands.

Sincerely,

Jim Gilbert  
Owner/operator Northwoods Nursery, Molalla  
Chair, 1000 Friends Farmer Advisory Committee

**About the Farmer Advisory Committee:** The Farmer Advisory Committee is composed of over 50 active farmers, ranchers, and foresters who support Oregon's land use laws to protect and maintain the state's

agricultural and forest land base. Committee members come from across the state and produce a wide variety of agricultural and forest products.

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*Jim Gilbert*

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***“The greatest service which can be rendered any country is to add a useful plant to its culture”*** - Thomas Jefferson