

Submitter: Johnny Buether  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3422

Dear Chair, Vice-Chairs, and members of the Committee:

Our family has been farming and ranching in Sherman County, Oregon for over 3 generations.

Our property is arid with typically less than 13 inches annual precipitation in the County, and our land is at the dry end. Approximately ½ of our property was historically cultivated on a summer fallow basis with a harvest of dryland cereals once every 2 years. The remainder of land has either insufficient soils or terrain to be cultivated so those lands have therefore only been used for dryland cattle grazing. The location, soils, topography and rainfall provide extremely limited options for use.

Much of the land we formerly cultivated are now in conservation programs as the economic potential is insufficient for cultivation due to low yield potential, very large increases in operational costs and the very significant risks from typical and sometimes dramatic changes in weather and market prices.

A variety of factors indicate a significant opportunity for diversification and alternate use for part of our lands and those in our area are for solar power development.

- There is a large and aging hydroelectric generation and distribution infrastructure nearby.
- There is a large and growing electrical demand in the region that supports economic development.
- Improvements in solar technology allows large scale solar power generation to be competitive.
- There are large tracts of land in our area with suitable topography and a lot of sunshine.

My family and I oppose HB 3422.

HB 3422 appears another procedural administrative hurdle and complication in alternative energy siting and that may significantly impact my family's use of our land.

We oppose HB 3422 because it would inject additional time, cost and uncertainty/risk into decision making for energy project siting process. The process does not need more barriers that can discourage developments with very large potential social and economic benefits.

Thank you for your consideration.