

Submitter: Steve Hood

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3422

Chair Lively,

I am in support of HB3422 when I learned a 1500 acre solar project was proposed in my area on high value farm ground and a pristine wetland that has been protected by a myriad of laws since Oregon became a State.

I was surprised that the Energy Facility Siting Council could bypass my city and county representatives and approve this project without any consideration of alternatives, something required of all other committees. I understand the solar industry doesn't like this requirement but it serves as a critical safeguard to allow for public comment and prevent the loss of valuable farmland. There is a reason all other proposals must go through this process and the rush to solar power should not be the exception.

These solar projects will be in place for 40 years, therefore we need to ensure we place them in the proper location.