

Submitter: Michelle Watson
On Behalf Of: HB4031
Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4031

RE: HB4031 Deschutes project Juniper Flat

I am opposing the Solar project on Juniper Flat for the following reasons.

My Husband and I purchased property on Juniper Flats 27 years ago. The area is situated between the Deschutes River to the South and the White River to the North. In between lies the beautiful area known as Juniper Flats.

I have been coming to the area campgrounds with my parents and six siblings since I was a child. This area has always been a special place. Semi remote yet close to Maupin and 50 miles from The dalles where my Husband and I ran a business for 30 years and retired in 2024. We finally have the time to start really enjoying what we have nurtured all this time.

A lot of the Families in this area have in some cases been here for generations.

Siting a solar farm that consists of 21 square miles over 2,000,000 solar panels in this area is unthinkable considering the scale of properties that would be affected by this. This is not unusable land which has been stated and is completely not true. Farming has been done here for decades.

There are so many other areas in Oregon that would be suitable for large scale projects without affecting individual families. This is not a typical site for a project of this magnitude.

It is a high fire danger zone. With the proposed battery storage facility to close to and land not consumed by solar panels. We do not have a large fire department and just the released chemicals this could create could be deadly to our community.

The solar panels release heat as well and also affect all properties surrounding them. It would take millions of gallons of water which would come from the Columbia River, the white rive and would also affect our rural wells.

This whole area gets completely saturated with water every winter. There are ditches that supply irrigation water to the farms and overflow ditches from the snow melt etc. This is not the area for large scale solar project.

This area is a dark area. There is a large abundance of wildlife that surrounds this whole area. Deer, Elk, Bear, Bobcat, Lynx, Coyotes and yes wolves. I have pictures of them on my property and have spotted them several times over the last 5 years even though they don't exist according to authority.

There is all the fowl as well. And of course the owls, herons, ospreys, eagles etc.. Also the hundreds of fowl, Bees and Birds that migrate through each spring and

summer.

This HB4031 Legislature that denies any Oregonian in this situation to not have full oversight and detailed charts on water ways and the affect it would have on all properties is not something that should pass through just to get a tax break. We deserve more form are Oregon than this.

Last but not least I would like you to consider if this was your property would you want to look at solar panel all around your property. Would you want your house to be worth half of its true value or less. Would you want to listen to two years of construction around your property.

Thanks for your time
Michelle Watson