

Friends of Marion County
HB 2329
Testimony before the House
Energy and Environment
Committee
Tuesday, March 5, 2019



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Two Cases to Learn from in Marion County

1. Calpine in Turner
2. County Administration Bldg.

1. Calpine Application in Turner

In yr 2001 applicant approached Turner, a small city of population 1,000 with a \$300MM gas-fired power plant proposal

The footprint extended outside of the city limits onto county land

EFSC then took charge of the application

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EFSC was well positioned to manage the application with an experienced professional staff - a task that the county could not manage even though it now has a budget of \$412MM

With the collapse of Enron, Calpine asked for a suspension of the permitting process

EFSC said there was no such process in the rules and Calpine disappeared; bankrupt in 2005

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2. Marion County Admin Bldg.

Built and dedicated by BOC in yr 2000

Started to creak, groan and make other noises about 10 yr later

Employees were evacuated and moved to temporary offices

Bldg was retrofitted to the approx cost of its original construction and then re-occupied



Q: What went wrong?

**A: Salem had bldg
inspectors but no
structural engineer**



What is there to learn from these examples?

1. Local government does not have the technical expertise to evaluate large projects
2. Sometimes political and business connections cloud decision makers' judgment
3. Of course, let's not forget the unlimited political contributions made to decision makers



Conclusion:

Solar, like other kinds of developers, are always seeking to maximize their return perhaps at the expense of other interests

Review of large Solar projects must remain under the review of EFSC to insure that all parties are represented and no issue goes without fair consideration

Therefore HB2329 is not a viable approach to energy sustainability

