

**HB 3180 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water**

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**Meeting Dates:** 3/16

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Requires the Department of Land Conservation and Development to study land use siting of solar photovoltaic power generating facilities and submit a report to a land-use related interim committee of the legislature by September 15, 2024. Sunsets January 2, 2025.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

-1 Replaces the measure. Defines ‘arable land’ as predominately cultivated land or land that is composed of certain soils, except constrained land. Defines ‘constrained land’ as land that has limited actual and legal access to sufficient available water to make use of it economically. Specifies specific conditions under which land qualifies as constrained land. Specifies the conditions under which counties are and are not required to adopt an exception to a statewide land use planning goal relating to agricultural land to authorize the establishment of a solar photovoltaic power generation facility. Specifies under which conditions the Energy Facility Siting Council is not required to adopt an exception to a statewide land use planning goal relating to agricultural land for a solar photovoltaic power generation facility.

**BACKGROUND:**

Solar technology is a renewable energy source that harnesses radiant light and heat from the sun to generate electricity. Solar photovoltaic cells, which convert the energy of sunlight photons into electric current, are the most common type of this technology. In 2020 2.89 percent of Oregon’s energy was generated via solar technology. Before a large energy facility is built in Oregon a developer must apply for a site certificate from the state’s Energy Facility Siting Council.

House Bill 3180 would require the Department of Land Conservation and Development to study land use siting of solar photovoltaic power generating facilities and submit a report to a land-use related interim committee of the legislature by September 15, 2024.