

Submitter: Brandon McMullen

On Behalf
Of:

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

Measure: HB3179

I would like to offer support of the continued development of the concept being presented in this effort. A proposed increase in county purview/jurisdictional threshold is a welcomed one from my perspective. I can only speak from my experience working in my jurisdiction (Harney County), however I would estimate that if other county planning departments were provided the opportunity to utilize additional resources when needed they can be successful. County planning staff are proficient at applying local and state standards for development for a 3,840ac site just as well as a 1,920ac site.

Based on my work with our local planning commission, I can express how important it is for our county to preserve our optimal goal 3 resource lands, and therefore would encourage development of these sites in areas that are more appropriate. There is a very large amount of acreage in our county that is not rated with a high soil capability class or even carry a high value economically considering the lack of water. Generally, these are lands are defined as nonarable (at least in this context). With that said, I would support continued discussion on sideboards which help in increasing the possibility of development in those locations, as solar energy facilities can contribute a large amount to smaller economically-challenged communities with limited tax bases.