Submitter: Granella Thompson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure: HB3179

I am STRONGLY opposed to solar, or wind for that matter, being placed on any farmable land, but ESPECIALLY high value farmland. We own a Century Farm of Athena Silt Loam soil, we could make a lot more money off of these heavily subsidized unreliable energy sources, but we feel our land should be used to grow food, and should be protected from such industrial development. Athena Silt Loam soil is found at the base of the Blue Mountains, is wind deposited high quality well drained soil up to 60 inches deep in an area of high enough rainfall that irrigation is not needed to produce over 100 bushels of wheat per acre. Such land should be protected, NOT COVERED UP!!!!

Solar panels electrocute birds that land on them. When they need replaced, they fill landfills with a lot of toxic substances involved. Since it is such an unreliable source of energy, wherever it is on such a massive scale, a backup plan is required, either gas or coal plant humming along in neutral until needed, costing a lot of money for no return, or battery backup is required. The batteries are made of lithium cobalt and other horrific for the environment minerals, lithium is rare so mining means ripping tons of earth to get a small amount of it, slave labor is used to get it, and cobalt is also dangerous to mine, in Africa children are mining it with basically their bare hands, and this is called green.

Soil is a living thing, with a lot of life in it. This destroys that. Farmable land needs protected, food is a worthwhile industry and importing food is not good for anyone when American farmers can produce healthier food in large amounts if government doesn't decide to cover up this incredible resource. Open spaces does not mean worthless. Farmers share the land with an incredible variety of wildlife successfully. Solar projects would destroy their homes. For all these reasons, please REJECT THIS BILL COMPLETELY.

thank you

Granella Thompson