

Submitter: Denver Pugh  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3422

Dear Chair Lively and Members of the House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment,

My name is Denver Pugh and I am a 6th generation farmer in Linn County. I urge you to pass HB3422. This bill will help put sideboards on where energy facilities can be built by making them evaluate and follow current local land use laws.

As a farmer, I appreciate having mandated Exclusive Farm Use (EFU) zones that limit industrial corporations or mass housing developments to freely come into an area and take over high valued soils that are needed to be kept for agricultural production that help feed the world. However, lately, the Energy Facility Siting Council has enabled large solar energy facilities to bypass these exclusion zones without the consideration of the current agricultural use zoning laws. Making the Energy Facility Siting Council follow the laws of all other entities wanting to place structures on EFU zoned land would allow the local governments to have a say on if these locations are appropriate.

I understand the need for more affordable energy, but not at the cost of permanently converting valuable farm ground. I encourage you to pass HB3422 and let the local governments have a much needed voice in the placement of these facilities.

Sincerely,

Denver Pugh  
Pugh Seed Farm, Inc.