



Jefferson County Farm Bureau

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March 27, 2025

Chair Lively and Committee Members,
House Committee on Climate, Energy and Environment
900 Court St. NE Salem, Oregon 97301

Support HB 3422

Dear Chair Lively, Vice Chairs Gamba and Levy and Committee Members,

Jefferson County Farm Bureau is a member of the Oregon Farm Bureau Federation (OFBF). In 1947 our county farm bureau was formed.

As a county farm bureau, we support HB 3422. We feel that the bill is needed to balance Goal 3 with Goal 13. Members of our county farm bureau attended the DLCD Eastern Oregon Solar RAC tour and meetings when they were in Madras. That meeting gave us great concern on being east of the Cascades as the sacrificial lamb for the solar industry.

This bill is a balance to the Land Use System and the goals that are to be treated equally. There are a lot of solar related bills in both Chambers this legislative session. Agriculture is approaching most of the bills as a “canary in a coal mine” to alert you as legislators to the pressures and imbalance that basically super-siting of solar “farms” or utilities could have in changing agriculture in Oregon.

We are not opposed to solar, and we have solar plants in our county, located where they should be. Agriculture is soil and landmass dependent.

It bothers our members that agricultural lands seem to be under attack this session. Things are tough for agriculture with low commodity prices. This makes it even harder for young farmers/ranchers trying to become established. They can't compete with the solar industry on leasing or buying foundation lands for their operations. Solar can go on the least productive ground or back to being put on roof tops, etc....

Please, do adopt HB 3422 and bring balance back for goal 3 and goal 13.

Sincerely,

Mickey Killingsworth

Mickey Killingsworth
Secretary-Treasurer
Jefferson County Farm Bureau

Cc Vanek and Harris