



BOARD OF YAKIMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Amanda McKinney
District 1

Ron Anderson
District 2

LaDon Linde
District 3

November 7, 2022

EFSEC
Ami Hafkemeyer
PO Box 43172
Olympia, WA 98504-3172

Ms. Hafkemeyer,

The Board of Yakima County Commissioners sincerely requests that your office immediately cease further proceedings of citing moderate to large-scale energy projects within Yakima County in recognition of the Solar Moratorium currently in place.

The sole purpose of the solar moratorium is to provide Yakima County sufficient time to properly develop goals, policies and land use regulations that specifically address the siting of such facilities. A major component of this project is to evaluate the impacts these facilities will have on the county's agricultural land base and address fire mitigation and response capabilities. Additionally, Yakima County code is in the process of being updated to require these facilities to obtain a Type 4 review to allow for robust input from our local residents and allow for an appeal process.

The Growth Management Act requires county officials designate and protect valuable agricultural land. Should EFSEC continue to overlook this state mandate, it may force Yakima County into non-compliance with this act.

The Board of Yakima County Commissioners deem Yakima County's code insufficient to effectively address the siting of moderate to large-scale solar projects in Yakima County. We ask that EFSEC reflect that position in their decision-making process. In addition to ceasing further action on currently proposed and future facilities, EFSEC should complete its own comprehensive performance report on the effects of the energy independence act and the impacts to central and eastern Washington, where the vast majority of these facilities are being located by EFSEC.

We hope to receive your timely response to confirm your acknowledgment and deference to the Solar Moratorium currently in place and allow Yakima County the time to address these irreversible land-use actions that effectively dismiss our role to protect agriculture land and properly plan for our future. We are not anti-solar projects per se, but we ask that the process be slowed down so that all such proposals can be considered thoughtfully and allow for consideration of public input, the value of ag lands, planning and mitigation for potential fire hazards and response, and efficient transmission of electricity.

We are, of course, open to having a conversation with you regarding our concerns.



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Sincerely,

Amanda McKinney
Chair of the Board
Commissioner, District 1

LaDon Linde
Commissioner, District 3

Ron Anderson
Commissioner, District 2