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*Comment Received From: Michael Geller
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Please Reject the Corby Application for BESS

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

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September 8, 2025

California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Opposition to Proposed Battery Energy Storage System – Corner of Kilkenny Road and Byrnes Road, Solano County, CA

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to strongly oppose the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) at the corner of Kilkenny Road and Byrnes Road in Solano County. While I support California's renewable energy goals, this particular project location is unsuitable and poses unacceptable risks to land use, public safety, and the surrounding community.

1. Zoning and Land Use Conflict

The proposed site lies within an area zoned **agricultural**. Solano County has historically preserved these lands for farming, ranching, and open space. Locating an industrial-scale battery storage facility here conflicts with the intent of the zoning ordinance and threatens to erode the agricultural character of the region. Once agricultural protections are compromised, it sets a precedent for further industrial encroachment into rural zones, permanently altering the landscape and undermining long-term land use planning.

2. Public Safety and Transportation Risks

Thermal runaway events at large-scale BESS facilities have been documented across the country, resulting in intense fires, explosions, and hazardous smoke plumes. The proximity of this proposed site to **Interstate 80** means that even a single incident could require **extended freeway closures**. The economic and social impacts would be severe: tens of thousands of vehicles would be diverted, commercial trucking routes disrupted,

and emergency services delayed. Such risks are incompatible with a location so close to one of Northern California's most critical transportation corridors.

3. Environmental Impacts

Battery storage facilities carry risks of soil and groundwater contamination from toxic chemicals if damaged during a fire or other failure. Agricultural land surrounding the site could be impacted, harming both current and future farming potential. Additionally, wildlife habitat in rural Solano County could be compromised by noise, heat, and pollution from a facility never intended for this type of environment.

4. Rural Emergency Response Capacity

Unlike urban areas with specialized hazardous materials teams nearby, rural Solano County has limited firefighting and emergency response resources. A large-scale battery fire could overwhelm local fire districts, putting not only first responders but also surrounding farms, homes, and residents at risk. The lack of robust emergency infrastructure makes this location especially inappropriate.

5. Community and Property Values

Industrial development of this type diminishes the quality of life for rural residents and threatens property values in the area. Families who have lived and farmed here for generations would bear the costs of reduced land value, increased industrial traffic, and the stigma of living near a high-risk facility.

Conclusion

For all these reasons—zoning conflicts, public safety concerns, environmental risks, inadequate emergency response capacity, and negative community impacts—I respectfully urge the Commission to **deny approval** of the proposed BESS facility at Kilkenny Road and Byrnes Road. Renewable energy infrastructure should be pursued responsibly, in locations that protect agricultural land, safeguard public safety, and respect the character of rural communities.

Thank you for your careful consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Geller

