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*Comment Received From: Byran Goetze
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Opposition to Corby BESS Project site

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

Dear Commissioners,

My name is Byran Goetze. I am a long- time Solano County property owner and live within miles of the proposed site. I am submitting this comment in opposition to the Corby Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Project due to its clear intent to bypass the legally established safety and land-use standards adopted by Solano County. These standards were created to protect residents, agricultural land, and community welfare, and should not be overridden through the state “Opt-In” certification process. While the California Energy Commission (CEC) holds authority under AB 205, it also bears the responsibility to consider and honor local jurisdictional protections that were developed with extensive research, expert consultation, and public input.

The Corby Project is attempting to use the state opt-in pathway to avoid complying with Solano County’s newly adopted BESS ordinance and zoning rules. The project site is on land where Solano County has explicitly prohibited large-scale industrial energy storage due to the proximity of residences and agricultural activity. Rather than aligning with these standards, the developer has chosen a state-level process that circumvents local zoning protections rather than working within them. This alone demonstrates an intentional disregard for community-based planning and safety decision-making.

Furthermore, Solano County’s ordinance establishes critical buffer and setback requirements, such as a minimum 300-foot safety setback from homes and other sensitive receptors to reduce risk to the public in the event of fire, thermal runaway, toxic smoke release, or explosion. These setbacks are not arbitrary, they were designed with expert consultation and modeled after lessons learned from real-world BESS failures, including those within California. By opting out of the local permitting process, the Corby Project may not be held to these same requirements, placing residents at unnecessary risk that our local government has already deemed unacceptable.

While the CEC holds state authority, Solano County’s ordinance reflects the will of local leadership and the residents who will live with the consequences of the decisions for decades to come. The purpose of local regulation is to ensure that land use is compatible with the surrounding environment and community. Allowing this project to bypass local rules sets a harmful precedent that renders county-level planning meaningless, undermines local democracy, and disregards public safety protections designed specifically for our region.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Commission to uphold and prioritize the safety standards and zoning regulations enacted by Solano County, and to reject any proposal that undermines them. State certification should not become a tool to override local safety, community protections, and responsible land-use planning.

Thank you,

Bryan Goetze - Solano County Property Owner