

DOCKETED	
Docket Number:	24-OPT-05
Project Title:	Corby Battery Energy Storage System Project
TN #:	267523
Document Title:	Brett Nielson Comments - Letter Opposing Corby BESS Project site on Kilkenny & Byrnes Rd
Description:	N/A
Filer:	System
Organization:	Brett Nielson
Submitter Role:	Public
Submission Date:	11/17/2025 1:59:21 PM
Docketed Date:	11/17/2025

Comment Received From: Brett Nielson
Submitted On: 11/17/2025
Docket Number: 24-OPT-05

Letter Opposing Corby BESS Project site on Kilkenny & Byrnes Rd

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

Dear Commissioners,

My name is Brett Nielson, and I am a lifelong resident of Solano County whose family property is located directly across from the proposed Corby Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) project site. For more than three decades, this land has been our home, our foundation, and the center of our family's future plans. I grew up here, and like many who call this area home, I always believed this would remain a safe and stable place to build for generations. Today, that sense of certainty is being threatened by a project that should have never been proposed in this location.

This is not simply an energy infrastructure decision or a debate about land use; it is a serious, lifelong safety and wellbeing concern for those who live closest to this facility including my own family. If approved, this project would permanently alter how we live, how we think about our home, and how we plan for the future.

Solano County did not rush into BESS regulation. The County spent more than two years developing a detailed, research-based ordinance that prioritizes public safety, environmental protection, emergency response capability, and responsible land planning. The ordinance was crafted with guidance from local fire professionals, hazardous materials experts, emergency services personnel, and agricultural advisors who understand the terrain, climate, wildfire behavior, transportation limitations, and response times unique to our county. Their expertise reflects real-world risk, not theory.

Despite that, the Corby developer is attempting to circumvent these locally adopted protections through a state-level opt-in pathway, effectively ignoring three major requirements: Local zoning laws that prohibit BESS facilities on agricultural or residential-adjacent land, the 300-foot safety setback requirement from homes and sensitive uses, and local authority and emergency planning input. No community member would ever choose to live across from a high-risk industrial energy storage site, and no safety-minded governing body would intentionally place one next to long-standing family homes or farmland.

Thermal runaway fires involving lithium-ion batteries are well-documented, highly dangerous, and extremely difficult to control. They can burn for days or weeks, reignite unexpectedly, and release toxic gases including hydrogen fluoride, one of the most dangerous industrial byproduct chemicals. In addition, water used to fight these fires becomes contaminated with heavy metals such as nickel, cobalt, and manganese, threatening soil and groundwater long after flames are extinguished. If a failure or explosion occurred here, our home would be among the first impacted, leaving us seconds to react if any warning came at all. No plume model, fire suppression plan, or public relations statement can erase that reality for those of us who live at ground zero.

In addition to safety threats, this project jeopardizes irreplaceable agricultural land, land that serves as a vital resource not only for local food production and open-space ecology but also for economic stability and regional identity. Once industrialized, it will never return to agricultural viability. It is also deeply concerning that the County has noted that no proven net benefit has been demonstrated for residents living near the site. The risk belongs to us, while any financial gain leaves with the developer.

For all of these reasons, I am asking that the Commission uphold Solano County's ordinance and deny the Corby BESS project at this location. Clean energy advancement cannot come at the cost of human safety, community stability, and long-established land-use protections.

Thank you for your time and for considering the people whose lives will be directly affected by this decision.

Sincerely,

Brett Nielson - Byrnes Road Solano County Resident