

DOCKETED

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Safe Storage and Jobs

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



Dear Commissioners,

We are writing to respond to the support letters coming in for the proposed Corby Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) project, specifically those from union members asking the CEC to approve the project for high-paying construction jobs.

First, let me be clear: our community fully supports union labor and good-paying local jobs. But asking us to choose between good jobs and neighborhood safety is a false choice.

As you review these support letters, I ask the Commission to keep a few key facts in mind:

High-paying jobs can happen at a safe location. The exact same construction and trade jobs will be created if this facility is built in an appropriately zoned industrial area—like the Lambie Industrial Park—instead of right next to homes and farmland. Rejecting this unsafe location doesn't mean losing out on energy storage or jobs; it just means putting the project where it actually belongs.

Labor agreements are location-neutral. Project Labor Agreements (PLAs) and union labor commitments are tied to the developer and the build, not to this specific parcel of land. The developer can guarantee good-paying union jobs at a properly zoned industrial site just as easily as they can here. Pushing for an unsafe site doesn't protect workers, it simply protects developer timeline shortcuts at the expense of community safety.

Direct conflict with local zoning laws and out-of-town support. The proposed location directly violates local zoning policies and land-use plans established by our local officials to protect residential areas and agricultural land. The majority of these template letters are signed by out-of-town individuals who do not live in our community and simply aren't aware of the local zoning rules, safety concerns, or full impacts of this specific site. Because they are unfamiliar with the realities on the ground, these out-of-town form letters should not override the voices of the residents who actually live here or the local government rules designed to protect us.

Follow the financial interest vs. who takes the risk. The developer, land speculation interests, and construction crews supporting this project benefit directly from its

approval. But once construction ends, they pack up and go home. On the other hand, the families, farmers, and local residents who live here gain zero financial benefit, yet we are forced to live with 100% of the long-term risk if a thermal runaway or toxic fire occurs.

Temporary construction hours vs. near-zero permanent jobs. Construction work is important, but it is temporary. Once built, a BESS facility is largely automated and operates with almost no permanent on-site staff. It makes no sense to trade a few months of temporary construction hours for permanent safety risks, loss of prime agricultural land, and potential disasters that fall squarely on our local fire departments and residents.

We shouldn't have to sacrifice our safety, local zoning, and agricultural land to get good jobs built in Solano County. We ask the CEC to stand up for sensible land-use planning, honor local zoning decisions, and require utility-scale battery projects to be built in safe, industrial locations.

Thank you for your time and for protecting our community.

Sincerely,

Keep Vacaville Safe