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Comment Received From: Robin Jaeckel
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Opposition to Corby Battery Energy Storage System Project

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

To the Commissioners and Staff:

As a resident and property owner in Solano County, I am writing to submit my formal opposition to the certification of the **Corby Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Project** proposed for the corner of Kilkenny Road and Byrnes Road.

While I support California's transition to clean energy, I deeply object to the applicant's choice to plant a high-hazard industrial facility directly adjacent to family homes and on protected, productive agricultural land. The California Energy Commission (CEC) Staff Assessment acknowledges that this project directly violates our local zoning protections, will cause **"Significant and Unavoidable" visual degradation** to our landscape, and permanently alters the rural character of our neighborhood.

By using a state-level regulatory bypass to force this project into an unsafe location, this proceeding violates my fundamental local due process and the property rights guaranteed to me under the United States Constitution. I request that the CEC deny this application and direct the applicant to relocate to the fully capable **Lambie Industrial Park Alternative**.

Specific Grounds for Opposition

1. Infringement on My 4th and 5th Amendment Rights

The Fifth Amendment (Takings Clause): Siting a massive, utility-scale industrial complex right outside my doorstep severely devalues my home. This forced drop in value is a regulatory taking. It asks local property owners like me to carry the full financial and safety burdens of this facility, all to serve grids in entirely different counties like San Francisco and Marin.

The Fourth Amendment (Right to Security in My Home): The Fourth Amendment guarantees my right to be secure in my home. Forcing my family to live with the constant, documented threat of a nearby thermal runaway event, toxic chemical plumes, and sudden shelter-in-place orders completely violates that security. It destroys the peace, safety, and quiet enjoyment of my private property.

Loss of Local Representation: The applicant is using the AB 205 Opt-In Certification Program to strip our elected county officials of their permitting authority. This completely bypasses Solano County Ordinance No. ZT-25-02, which was passed to protect rural areas like ours by banning front-of-meter BESS facilities in agriculture zones. Bypassing these local rules ignores my right to local land-use due process.

Threats to My Safety, Health, and Community Resources

Thermal Runaway Risks: Lithium-ion battery systems carry a clear risk of thermal runaway, which creates intense chemical fires that release highly toxic gases.

Dangerous Proximity: The project site sits less than a mile from Interstate 80 and shares borders with local homes. A major battery fire would not only threaten my immediate safety but could shut down a major highway corridor and trigger widespread emergency evacuations.

Straining Our First Responders: BESS emergencies are incredibly resource-intensive. A fire would overwhelm our local fire departments, draining the exact equipment and personnel needed to handle regular emergencies and protect my family.

Destruction of Protected Farmland

Loss of Historic Agricultural Land: Putting this project on this 40.3 -acre parcel permanently replaces active, historically vital agricultural soils with heavy industrial machinery.

Flawed Offsite Offsets: This plan goes completely against the spirit of Solano County's Agricultural Mitigation Program. Buying an easement somewhere else does not replace or fix the physical destruction of the land right next to us.

Permanent and Severe Visual Harm

Industrial Blight: The Staff Assessment openly states that the project's complex industrial forms and geometric shapes will harshly contrast with our rural, open agricultural landscape.

Ruined Views: The introduction of security fencing, lighting, and massive battery enclosures permanently ruins the scenic, historic views that define the Kilkenny region.

My Proposed Solution: Move to Lambie Industrial Park

My opposition is to the location, not the battery storage. The CEC Staff Assessment explicitly reviewed the **Lambie Industrial Park Alternative** and found it to be fully feasible.

Proper Zoning: Siting the facility at Lambie Industrial Park places it in an area already zoned and designated for industrial use.

Protecting Neighborhoods: Moving the project away from agricultural lands removes high-voltage hazards and chemical fire risks from families, neighborhoods, and local schools.

Saving our Farming Heritage: This alternative allows the state to meet its clean energy goals without paving over local protected agricultural resources.

My Questions for the Official Administrative Record

To ensure complete transparency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), I demand that the Applicant and CEC Staff provide clear, written answers to the following questions before moving forward:

1. Given that County Ordinance NO. ZT-25-02 explicitly prohibits front-of-the-meter BESS facilities within an Agricultural Zone, how does the CEC justify overriding local democracy and land-use protections established by our elected representatives?

2. If the CEC uses state-level authority to override our local zoning rules, what binding guarantees will the applicant provide to protect the property values and safety of homeowners living right next to this industrial site?
3. Since the energy stored here is contracted to outside regional entities like Marin Clean Energy and CleanPowerSF, why must Solano County residents carry the safety risks and zoning disruptions for other counties' energy markets?

Fire Safety and Emergency Responses

4. The Staff Assessment states that the Dixon Fire Department will require specialized gas detectors and a chemical-detecting drone. What is the exact maximum radius of the toxic plume if the proposed LG JF2 DC LINK batteries experience a worst-case runaway event?
5. Because the site is only about 0.6 miles from Interstate 80, has a formal, comprehensive evacuation and multi-hour highway closure plan been coordinated with Caltrans and the California Highway Patrol?
6. While LGES reports no field thermal events for the JF2 line as of January 2026, this is a newer generation of technology. What specific, real-world data can the applicant provide regarding the safety and wear of these units by Year 15 or 20 of operation?
7. If a BESS fire occurs and requires active cooling water, what concrete controls are in place to ensure toxic, chemical-laden runoff does not seep through or overflow the unlined retention basins and pollute our groundwater or the adjacent Solano Irrigation District canal?

Siting Alternatives

8. The Staff Assessment explicitly analyzed the **Lambie Industrial Park Alternative**. Why is the applicant forcing an industrial complex into a rural neighborhood when a properly zoned, industrial site is fully available?
9. Since the Staff Assessment notes that the alternative sites share a "similar level of severity" in environmental impacts, why is the CEC prioritizing corporate preference over an alternative that actually respects local agricultural zoning intents?

Environmental and Farming Preservation

10. The CEC staff concluded that the project's visual damage is "**Significant and Unavoidable**". How can a simple row of landscape trees realistically mask the visual clash of a massive industrial steel complex against our historic rural farming landscape?
11. Our county relies heavily on the Agricultural Mitigation Program. How does securing a paper easement on land miles away truly offset the permanent, physical destruction of this specific 40.3-acre parcel of historically productive soil?

Conclusion and Request for Action

The Corby BESS Project, as proposed for the Kilkenny Road site, completely prioritizes corporate convenience over public safety, agricultural preservation, and my constitutional property rights. Building

a high-hazard industrial plant right next to family homes creates an unmitigable threat to our health and safety.

I formally request that the California Energy Commission **deny certification** for this location and direct the applicant to use the **Lambie Industrial Park Alternative**. This is the only sensible solution where state energy goals can be met without endangering local residents.

Submitted by:

Robin Jaeckel

Solano County Resident/ Property Owner

