

DOCKETED	
Docket Number:	24-OPT-05
Project Title:	Corby Battery Energy Storage System Project
TN #:	272660
Document Title:	Brett Nielson Comments - Formal Opposition to Corby BESS Protect the Families Who Will Live Directly Across the Street From This Facility
Description:	N/A
Filer:	System
Organization:	Brett Nielson
Submitter Role:	Public
Submission Date:	9/13/2026 3:58:22 PM
Docketed Date:	9/14/2026

Comment Received From: Brett Nielson
Submitted On: 9/13/2026
Docket Number: 24-OPT-05

**Formal Opposition to Corby BESS Protect the Families Who Will
Live Directly Across the Street From This Facility**

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 the street from the proposed Corby Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) project site.**

For more than two decades, this property has been our home, our foundation, and the center of our family's future plans. I grew up here, and like many people who call this area home, I always believed this would remain a safe and stable place for our family to live and build a future for generations to come. Today, that sense of security is being threatened by a large industrial battery facility that I firmly believe should never have been proposed this close to existing homes and families. This is not simply an energy infrastructure decision or a debate over land use. For my family, this is personal.

If approved, this project would sit directly across the street from the place we have called home for more than 25 years. We would be the ones living beside it every day. We would live with the noise, visual impacts, construction, increased industrial activity, emergency risks, and uncertainty about what could happen if there were ever a serious battery failure or fire. It would permanently change how we live, how we feel about the safety of our home, and how we plan for our family's future.

Our Local Protections Were Created for a Reason:

Solano County did not rush into regulating battery energy storage facilities. The County spent significant time developing standards intended to address public safety, environmental protection, emergency response, land-use compatibility, and responsible siting. Those local protections reflect something extremely important: the people who live here and the local agencies that serve this community understand this area.

They understand our rural roads, surrounding agricultural land, wildfire conditions, nearby homes, emergency-response limitations, and the realities of protecting families in this part of Solano County. Yet the Corby developer is pursuing approval through California's state Opt-In process despite serious conflicts and concerns raised at the local level.

As someone whose family would live directly across the street, it is extremely difficult to understand why protections established for communities like ours can be overridden in order to place a major industrial facility beside the very homes those protections were intended to protect.

If Something Goes Wrong, My Family Will Be Among the First Affected:

Thermal runaway and fires involving lithium-ion battery systems present serious emergency-response challenges, including prolonged fire, reignition, smoke, and the release of potentially hazardous gases. For someone reading an environmental report, these risks may be represented by maps, calculations, models, and statistics. For me, the other side of that map is my family's home.

If a serious incident occurs, we will not be watching it from miles away. We could be standing directly across the street wondering whether the smoke is moving toward our house, whether we need to evacuate, whether it is safe to remain inside, and whether our family and property are protected. No family should have to live with that uncertainty when a safer location could avoid placing people in that position in the first place.

The Commission should also consider what happens during a prolonged emergency. Does our rural area have enough firefighting water, personnel, equipment, and evacuation capacity to respond to a major incident while continuing to protect the rest of the surrounding community? Those questions should have definitive answers before approval, not after construction begins and certainly not after an emergency occurs.

Our Home Is Also Our Family's Future:

Beyond physical safety, this project creates another very personal concern: what happens to the home and property our family has spent more than 25 years building? A home is often a family's largest financial asset. We have invested decades of work into this property with the expectation that it would remain something valuable and meaningful that could be passed on to future generations. Putting a utility-scale industrial battery facility directly across the street changes that.

Will another family someday want to purchase a home directly across from a BESS facility?

Will our property value be affected?

Will our homeowners insurance premiums increase?

Could insurance become more difficult to obtain?

If any of those things happen because of this project, who is responsible for the financial loss imposed on my family?

These are not insignificant concerns to the people who actually own the surrounding properties. The developer should not receive the financial benefit of this project while neighboring families are expected to absorb its potential financial consequences.

Protect Our Agricultural Community:

This project also threatens the rural and agricultural character that makes this area what it is. Agricultural land is not simply vacant land waiting for industrial development. It contributes to our local economy, open space, agricultural heritage, and the identity of Solano County. Once an area begins transitioning from agriculture and rural residences to large-scale industrial infrastructure, that character is extremely difficult—if not impossible—to restore. California can advance clean energy without unnecessarily industrializing areas immediately adjacent to established homes and farms. The issue is not whether California should have battery storage. The issue is where facilities of this magnitude should be located.

Five Questions I Ask the Commission to Answer

As a resident whose family home is directly across the street from the proposed project, I ask the California Energy Commission to provide clear answers to these five questions:

- 1. If there are feasible industrial locations farther away from existing homes and agricultural properties, why should the Corby BESS be placed directly across the street from families who have lived here for decades?**
- 2. If a major fire, thermal runaway event, or toxic smoke release occurs, what specific protections will be in place for my family and the other residents living closest to the facility, including immediate notification, evacuation, shelter-in-place instructions, and emergency access?**
- 3. Can the Commission demonstrate before approving this project that local firefighters will have sufficient water, staffing, equipment, training, and resources to respond to a prolonged battery emergency while still protecting the surrounding community?**
- 4. What protections will be provided to neighboring homeowners if the presence of this facility causes property values to decline, homeowners insurance premiums to increase, coverage to become unavailable, or an incident causes physical or environmental damage to our properties?**

5. Most importantly, if members of this Commission would not willingly choose to raise their own families directly across the street from a utility-scale battery storage facility, why should my family be required to accept that risk when safer locations may be available?

For all of these reasons, I respectfully ask the Commission to deny the Corby BESS project at this location and require serious consideration of a safer, appropriately industrial location farther from established homes and agricultural properties. Clean energy advancement should not come at the expense of human safety, family security, agricultural land, and long-established communities.

When this proceeding is finished, the Commission will move on to other projects. My family will still be here, directly across the street. We will live with this decision every morning when we wake up and every night when we go to sleep. We will live with whatever risks, impacts, and uncertainty come with placing this facility here. There are other locations where battery storage can be built. **My family only has one home.**

Please do not ask us to sacrifice its safety, security, and future when that sacrifice can be avoided by choosing a more appropriate location.

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