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Comment Received From: Macy James Nielson
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**Corby BESS Does Not Belong Across the Street From Our Homes -
Opposition**

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

Dear Commissioners:

My name is Macy Nielson, and I was born and raised on the property directly across the street from the proposed Corby Battery Energy Storage System Project. This isn't just where I live. This is my family's legacy, my childhood, and the place I have called home my entire life. I am writing to say, with complete conviction, that I **strongly oppose this project at its proposed location** because my family, my neighbors, and my community will be the ones living with its risks.

I did not grow up imagining my home across the street from a massive lithium-ion battery storage facility. I grew up surrounded by farmland, wildlife, fresh air, quiet nights, and the belief that the place we called home would remain safe. My parents worked their entire lives to build this home and create something that could be passed down through our family. We have always been able to live here without wondering what could happen at a large-scale battery facility on the other side of the road. If Corby BESS is built here, that changes.

Let's be honest: if this project was 500 feet from your home would you approve it? No. No parent would willingly choose that risk. No homeowner should be expected to. No reasonable person would. This only looks acceptable from a map, an office, or a profit sheet not standing barefoot in the soil it threatens.

Lithium-ion battery failures are not rare and the consequences of a serious failure can be significant. When lithium-ion batteries experience thermal runaway, fires can be extremely difficult to control and can release hazardous gases that no family should ever be forced to breathe. We have already seen serious battery storage incidents at facilities including Moss Landing and Otay Mesa. Fires, thermal runaway, evacuations, shelter-in-place warnings, smoke, and emergency responses are not possibilities that families living nearby should be expected to dismiss simply because safety systems and mitigation measures are in place. **That is the technology being proposed across the street from where I sleep every night.**

My concerns extend beyond the fire itself. I worry about what a serious incident could release into the air, what contamination could mean for surrounding soil, agriculture, groundwater, animals, and families who depend on this land. And we all know that once soil, air, or groundwater is contaminated with lithium, aluminum or other heavy metals, it is forever altered. You cannot scrub cancer-causing chemicals out of dirt. You cannot disinfect drinking water from industrial toxins. People don't recover from neurological damage or chronic respiratory illness because someone later says, "We're sorry, we didn't expect this."

What terrifies me most is the unknown, because no one, not the developer, not the state, not a stakeholder in this project can promise what 10, 20, or 30 years of exposure near this facility will mean for the children growing up here. Could it mean cancer? Infertility? Birth defects? Lung disease? You cannot guarantee it won't. No one can tell my family with certainty what decades of living immediately beside a facility of this scale could mean for our health and quality of life. And I refuse to sit quietly while my family becomes test subjects.

So why should families be asked to accept that uncertainty when there are feasible alternative locations that could create greater separation from established homes?

This project is proposed in an agricultural community surrounded by homes, farms, open land, and people who rely on this area every day. Regardless of what a technical report concludes about the probability of an incident, common sense should matter when deciding where a project of this magnitude belongs.

I want you to take a moment and picture what this decision looks like from our side of the road.

Imagine lying awake at 3 a.m. after hearing sirens and wondering whether they are coming from the battery facility across the street - asking yourself how quickly do I need to evacuate?

Imagine seeing smoke and having to decide whether your family should stay inside or leave.

Imagine listening every day to the constant hum of industrial equipment, knowing that the peaceful home you once knew may never sound the same again.

Imagine the open land, wildlife, and agricultural views that have defined this area for generations being replaced by rows of battery containers, industrial lighting, fencing, and electrical infrastructure. This would not simply change our view—it would permanently change the character of the place we call home.

Imagine your family questioning whether an incident could affect the water they drink, the soil they depend on, or the air their children are breathing.

For the Commission, these possibilities may exist in modeling, emergency plans, and risk assessments.

For us, they would exist outside our front door.

We deserve protection, not to be treated as an acceptable level of risk. We deserve to feel safe in our own homes. And we deserve to know that when safer siting alternatives exist, the people already living here will be given greater consideration than the convenience of placing this project at Kilkenny and Byrnes road.

I am pleading with you: **Do not ask my family and my neighbors to carry risks that could be reduced simply by choosing a more appropriate location.**

Once this facility is built, there is no simple way to undo the decision. There is no restart button. There is no “let’s move it” if the impacts are greater than anticipated. The serious battery fire at Moss Landing should be a reminder of why the consequences of failure matter just as much as the predicted probability of failure. When you are deciding where to locate facilities capable of experiencing serious incidents, **distance from people's homes matters.**

I am asking you to do the right thing: **Do not approve the Corby BESS project at its current location.**

Protect the people who actually live here. Protect the agricultural community that already exists here. If this project can serve the same purpose at a feasible location farther from established homes, then please choose the location that does not unnecessarily place families beside the risk.

You have the opportunity to make that choice **before** something happens, not explain the decision afterward.

Vacaville is not disposable. Our community is not disposable. And the families who call this place home are not disposable.

Thank you for hearing the voice of one of the residents who stands to lose the most.

Sincerely,

Macy James Nielson

Macy James Nielson

Byrnes Rd Resident