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*Comment Received From: Karen Gosson
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Please Don't Put Battery Storage in Vacaville

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing as someone living with stage 4 cancer, compelled to voice my concerns about the proposed Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) in Vacaville. While renewable energy and technological advancements are important, the potential dangers of large-scale battery systems are too significant to ignore, especially for vulnerable individuals like myself and for the well-being of our entire community.

BESS facilities pose substantial health and safety risks. These systems often rely on lithium-ion batteries, which contain hazardous materials such as cobalt and nickel. If improperly managed, these materials can leach into the air, soil, or water, posing serious health risks to residents, including respiratory issues, neurological damage, and even increased cancer risk. For someone like me, already battling a critical illness, the possibility of exposure to these toxins is terrifying. I also have 2 young boys, and no parent wants to have the stress of worrying about additional exposures to their children, who should have the right to grow up in a safe environment.

Additionally, the risk of catastrophic failure in these systems cannot be overlooked. Lithium-ion batteries are prone to thermal runaway, a chain reaction that can result in uncontrollable fires or explosions. These events release toxic fumes and particulate matter into the air, further endangering the health of those living nearby. For a community like Vacaville, this risk is unacceptable.

The environmental impact of these systems is also a significant concern. The production, transportation, and disposal of battery materials contribute to pollution and resource depletion. Locating such a facility in Vacaville, a city known for its natural beauty and agricultural heritage, undermines the very qualities that make this community special.

Moreover, these systems often prioritize profit over safety and sustainability. While renewable energy is essential, there are safer and more responsible ways to store and manage energy. Alternatives such as advanced flow batteries, hydrogen storage, or other emerging technologies could provide energy solutions without the same level of risk.

As someone whose time may be limited, I want to leave behind a safer world for future generations. I urge policymakers to reject the BESS proposal for Vacaville and instead pursue safer, more sustainable energy solutions. Our health, our environment, and our community's safety should never be compromised in the name of progress.

Thank you for considering the voices of those who will be most affected by this decision.
Regards,
Karen Gosson