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Vacaville Does NOT Want Battery Storage Here

To Whom It May Concern,

I have lived in Solano County my entire life and I am deeply opposed to the proposed Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) project in our community. This project not only brings significant risks from toxic chemicals but also feels like an unwelcome mandate forced upon us by the state, disregarding the will of Solano residents who have already spoken out against such developments. I am a truck driver and have seen fires from other battery storage locations and the devastation is astronomical.

Solano County has long been a place where people cherish peace, natural beauty, and a strong sense of community. The introduction of a BESS facility, with its potential for chemical leaks, fires, and environmental contamination, threatens everything that makes this area special. The materials used in these batteries, such as lithium, cobalt, and nickel, are hazardous. If these chemicals leak into the soil or water, or are released during a fire, the consequences for our health, agriculture, and environment could be catastrophic. We are still recovering from the devastation of the Lightning Complex Fires and the last thing we need are ticking time bombs in our community.

Solano County residents have already expressed their concerns and made it clear that projects like this do not align with the values of our community. This BESS project feels like a top-down decision imposed by state mandates, ignoring the voice of the people who actually live here. We've already seen decisions that prioritize industrial progress over local input, and this is yet another example of unwanted interference that disregards our right to shape our own future.

Beyond the immediate risks, this project symbolizes a broader erosion of local control. The residents of Solano have worked hard to preserve the natural beauty and agricultural legacy of our county. Forcing industrial projects like this onto us shows a lack of respect for our priorities, our safety, and our vision for our community.

There are better, safer ways to address energy storage needs without compromising the health and well-being of Solano residents. Safer technologies exist, and they should be prioritized before placing hazardous facilities in the middle of a community that has clearly said "no."

I urge decision-makers to listen to the people of Solano County. Reject this BESS proposal and respect our community's right to maintain its character, safety, and environment. Solano residents deserve better than a project that brings more risks than benefits and that feels forced upon us without genuine consideration of our concerns.

Thank you for standing with the people of Solano County and prioritizing our health and future.

Jerry Malicki