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Statement of opposition

I am writing this in opposition of the Corby lithium ion Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) that is being proposed at Byrnes Rd and Kilkenny Rd in Vacaville. Safety and land preservation are the main issues of concern with BESS, especially in regards to this specific project.

The state's passage of SB38 was an admission of hazards that lithium BESS facilities pose. If lithium BESS facilities were safe, there would be no need for SB38.

The City of Vacaville and Solano County both have a temporary moratorium on BESS facilities as they determine the best ways to proceed with permitting. Solano County is going to great lengths to gather information from all parties so they can make an informed decision on what their permitting process will be. The County has put a lot of effort into this and is working on the final details of an ordinance for battery storage that should be completed soon. However, Corby's arrogance is on full display as they are trying to force their way around it with no regard to local government or the residents.

Many of these lithium BESS facilities throughout the country have caught fire and have taken multiple days, sometimes over a week, to burn out. The smoke from these fires are toxic and we don't know what long term effects this will have on the public. The BESS developers will tell us it's safe and there is nothing to worry about. We have heard this from corporations before; I remember Monsanto used to say that Round Up was safe too. Now municipalities throughout California are banning the use of Glyphosate in public places. We have seen these lithium ion BESS facilities burn all over the country, and many of them in this state. We have been told the ones that burned are "old technology" and that LFP batteries are the newer and better technology. However, we've seen brand new LFP BESS installations burn as well. We have been told infuriating things, like the battery fires are the equivalent to a house fire. If a homebuilder built homes that combusted at a rate equal to lithium BESS facilities, that builder would lose their license.

Property values around their project will likely drop. Those properties would not be as desirable anymore and due to the safety issues and the BESS facility itself, the residents of the area may want to move. However, the BESS facility would keep the residents from getting the best possible price for their home and they would be at a disadvantage. Not only does it put them in a position to sell a home they didn't want to leave, but they would be at a disadvantage because their property is not as desirable and may sell for less. That could mean less options for them as homebuyers and likely with a higher mortgage payment, not because of any wrongdoing on their part, but because they happen to live next to the parcel the developer bought. Allowing this to

pass could be devastating to the residents that live in the area.

Last - the land. Corby bought prime agricultural land that should be used for farming. The county would never get that back and mitigation will not give back the prime agricultural land that is being lost. My understanding is that they want to be closer to the substation because it costs more to be further away. If this project was driven by their desire for clean energy, that cost wouldn't matter since they would still make a large profit. Location wouldn't be an issue if money wasn't the reason they were here. The developers would happily take what is allowed if this was strictly about clean energy. There's a lot of money in renewable energy right now, and it's more profitable now than ever before. But it's even more profitable when closer to the substations. While I believe there is a place for lithium BESS facilities, this location is not it. The community benefit should be having their operations in a location that would not impact the community, or anyone else, in a negative way. There are areas within the county that could support that and there are better battery chemistries that could be used instead. Corby even stated in their application (under site alternatives) that it is possible to build the facility as far as 6.5 miles away from the substation. But would they really be willing to go further out? I think they would if the option was moving to a better location further away or no project at all.