

My name is Jeff Brunson, I reside at 1585 Tjossem Road, Ellensburg, Washington. I represent myself and my wife Jackie. We were both born and raised in Kittitas County and I thank you for the opportunity to speak.

The solar facilities proposed on our property will not only provide clean energy to this community, but will also provide financial diversification for my farming activities. The farming community never knows when we will experience a drought year, when product prices may plunge or when other unforeseen circumstances may happen. Having an alternative income source makes sense for my farming practices and for this community's energy needs.

The Daily Record published a guest column on December 2, 2017 which states that one acre of timothy hay production is worth \$1,875. Farmers do not typically disclose the value of their crops, and I am one of those farmers, but I can tell you that \$1,875 per acre is not even close to an average value, that figure is an unrealistically high price for timothy hay. In addition, it should be noted that timothy hay has to be replanted every 3-5 years with a rotation crop that typically has less value. The dollar values published in the Daily Record are flawed.

Apparently, people are concerned about my water rights, and I appreciate that. However, I have confirmed that I will not lose any water rights from the Town Ditch or Bull Ditch. The project will require irrigation water for the vegetation so there is no issue with our water rights.

As stated, I farm for a living and I do not owe anybody a view. I do not farm or grow crops for the pleasure of my neighbors. My wife and I run our farming operations as a business, not a family farm. The decision to sign agreements for the Camas and Penstemon solar facilities with TUUSSO Energy is a business decision. Jason Evans and his company have been professional and it is a pleasure doing business with them. Jason volunteered to include a vegetation buffer for neighboring property owners, showing his dedication to the project and willingness to work with neighbors to help mitigate any perceived conflicts. These projects will not change the surrounding land uses and I can't see how it will impact anyones property values, including our own remaining farm ground close to these solar facilities.

Coincidentally, another part of our farm has been chosen by the county as one of their top 3 locations for a new transfer station. We find it ironic that the county

would be willing to build a garbage dump on prime Ag-20 land but not allow a clean and beneficial solar facility on the same.

One last comment, our property met the criteria that TUUSSO Energy requires for their facilities and Jason came to us regarding the solar facility. We look forward to renewable energy and feel these projects have been well planned out and are warranted.

Jeff Brunson