

20 December 2017

EFSEC
P. O. BOX 47250
OLYMPIA, WA 98504

Re: TUUSSO Energy- Columbia Solar Project - Penstemon Site

To Whom It May Concern:

I am an adjacent landowner to the proposed TUUSSO solar panel installation at the Tjossem Road and Moe Road intersection (Penstemon). As such, I feel I have knowledge about this particular site. This proposed site is an excellent piece of farm ground and has been farmed since the early 1870's. It has been designated by the county as commercial or prime farmland because it has senior water rights and excellent soils. Our valley only has approximately 15,000 acres that qualify in this category. Our farm has been here since 1894 and I have farmed here since 1973 and in those 44 years; I have seen excellent crops grown on this ground, from sugar beets and sweet corn to grain and hay. The United States is losing 500 to 1000 acres of prime farm ground each day depending on your information source. In the arid west only a few of those acres being converted have both good commercial quality soils and excellent water rights because they are a very valuable and finite resource. Putting an industrial site at this location is a waste of an invaluable state resource that has had state and federal money spent on improving its irrigation system, land leveling and extensive field drains. This USDA money was spent for agricultural improvement not industrial development.

Coleman creek has been designated as a prime stream for the Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board's salmon recovery efforts on the Yakima River. They have encouraged and pressured farmers along Coleman Creek to remove irrigation diversions and put in fish screens and encouraged the Kittitas Conservation District, Washington State Conservation Commission, the Salmon Recovery Board, and Yakima River Enhancement to fund these projects so salmon can now reach Tjossem Road. This stream flows the full length of the east boundary of this particular piece of ground. Through best management practices this ground sends very little soil particulate matter onto Coleman creek. While soil particulate matter can affect the salmon in this stream, those affects will not be close to the damage done when the chemicals used at this industrial site leach into this stream -- and they will leach into this stream. This property all drains into Coleman Creek because the creek channel is all down gradient of this field. The concrete leachate is deadly to salmon. Leachate from the galvanizing and any lubricants used to keep these panels moving will also leach into the creek. WDFW, the Kittitas County Water Purveyors and the Department of Ecology are all monitoring this stream now for particulates, organic matter, pesticides and chemical composition and will surely monitor it more closely

with this industrial site sitting riparian to Coleman creek which has all this state and federal salmon recovery money invested in it.

According to the realtors in this valley there are 18,000 acres, which meet TUUSSO's siting requirements for this industrial project that are not prime farm ground with senior water rights. Why not consider siting this installation at one of these locations? Surely there are other places that are not prime farmland, with senior water rights and not riparian to a state designated salmon stream.

Respectfully,

Steven C. Rosbach
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