

Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC)
Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

June 6, 2018

RE: TUUSSO Columbia Solar Project

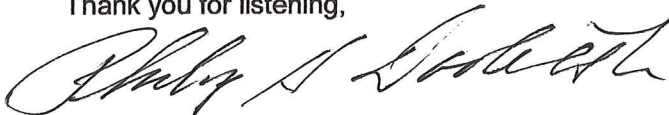
To: The Members of EFSEC and the Governor

I am writing this letter because I am concerned with the site selection process that has been employed for this project and the failure of EFSEC to recognize that there are alternatives which both satisfy the physical requirements for a solar facility and also satisfy the position of most of the people who inhabit the Kittitas Valley. Kittitas County has developed criteria for siting solar facilities and that criteria should hold in this case.

It is appreciated that the flat, irrigated, agricultural land in Kittitas Valley makes establishing a solar facility relatively cheap since it is flat and usually has a power line adjacent to the property. There is, or at least should be, an overriding concern for using this class of property for non-agricultural purposes. The present population of the world is about 7.5 Billion people, many of whom currently do not have enough food. At the present rate of population growth of 1.25% per annum the population of the world will be about 10 Billion in 20 years. Because feeding the world population will become more difficult, why should we make it even more difficult by taking good agricultural land out of production. It shows a lack of concern for the future of our race.

As to alternatives, I can list by USGS section number about 20,000 acres or more adjacent to the flat valley floor which is marginal grazing land or shrub step land. All of which has power lines either running through them or that are within a mile or two. There are sites suited for solar which already have a wind farm on them. If you ask, I will identify them or show them to you. Some of this land may belong to the state or the federal government but should be leasable. It is obvious that the developer would require a bit more capital to develop these sites which are less accessible and have some south facing slope to them. I believe that TUUSSO is out to make a quick buck and that these sites are not attractive to them. On the other hand, the people of the county will gain for it will add an income source rather than replace one.

Thank you for listening,



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PS: I should point out that as a retired physicist and having installed solar systems on three of my trailers over 20 years, I do have a good feel for what is required to build such a facility.
PHD

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