

Here are a few thoughts about the 20 acre limit on solar development on agricultural land in Oregon.

If land is undeveloped at this time in history, there are probably good reasons that it is impractical or not profitable to farm the land under today's standards. This is not to say that the land cannot be utilized with some future technology, but it is unlikely that the marginal land will be needed in production agriculture in the foreseeable future. Examples would include rough country with rock outcroppings, shallow soil areas, and land interspersed with playas, ridges or other obstacles.

In most of eastern Oregon, the water resource is fully committed to irrigating the existing cropland. Many of us have purchased marginal land with water rights and transferred the water rights to better land that we already own. It is important that the resources be used to maximize productivity without harming the land.

Over the years, the state has been crisscrossed with hi-voltage power lines, many of which do not follow section lines. These lines make mechanical irrigation very difficult or impossible. It seems that allowing solar development on land already impacted by power lines could be a mitigation of the impact of those lines.

Eastern Oregon contains vast amounts of undeveloped private land that could be used for solar power production, or a yet undiscovered use, without a negative effect on the present economy.

Oregon has mandated the development of renewable energy and identified solar generation as a part of the program. Success of this venture is very dependant on the economy of scale. Numerous projects of less than 20 acres will not compete financially with a few developments of 100 acres or larger. Impact on non-agricultural residents should be less with development of a few large tracts.

Proximity to existing powerlines should be considered to lessen the impact on neighboring property and encourage the economic success of the projects.

Thank You,

Alan Parks
The Poplars Ranch, Inc.
59234 Fort Rock Rd.
Silver Lake, OR. 97638

Tuttle, Casaria R.

From: Jim Walls [jim.walls@lcri.org]
Sent: Monday, January 10, 2011 11:45 AM
To: casaria.r.tuttle@state.or.us
Subject: Solar
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Red
Attachments: Christmas Valley tax slide.JPG

Casaria, I understand there is a committee reviewing solar on agricultural ground and there are some who state that farming is not compatible with solar. This is not true particularly on non-prime farmland and were this is no irrigation. I am located in Lake County and we have been classified as distressed for two decades now, what the rest of the country is currently experiencing economical is nothing new to us. We have designed a plan in Lake County to be a net exporter of renewable energy by December 2012 and for the first time in a long time see some economic growth. I have attached an analysis of the taxes a solar farm would be providing to the various taxing districts, developed by South Central Oregon Economical Development District.

I hope the decisions made by the committee are appropriate for agricultural land and solar industry and not overly influenced by those in a "not my back yard campaign". While there is an anti-solar group in Christmas Valley with some very strong feelings about solar. I held a job fair there and had over 20 people from Christmas Valley who wanted a job and thought it was a good thing. I have a small acreage just west of Lakeview and if a company wants to build a solar farm next to my place they are welcome.

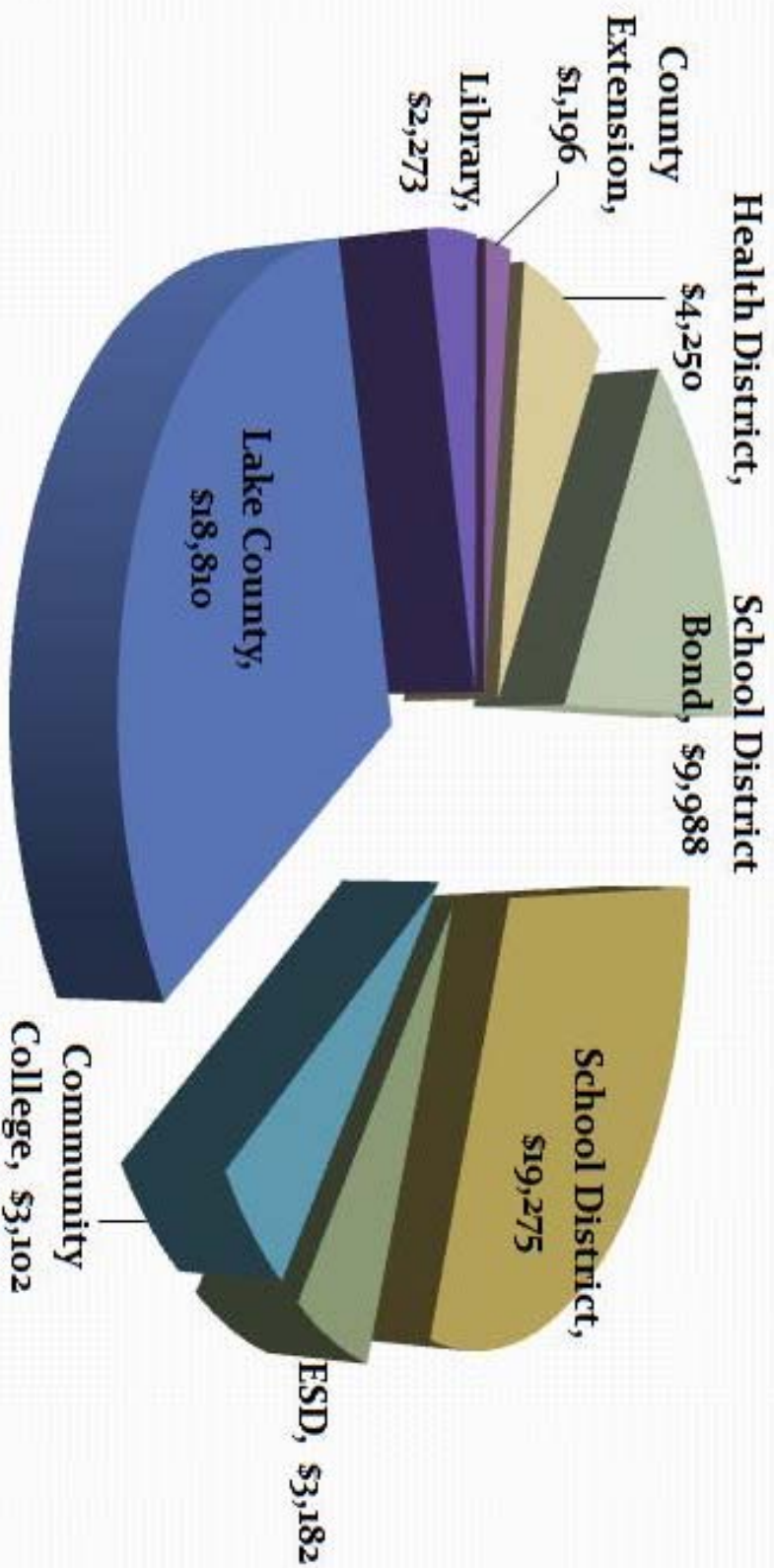
Thank you for your time.

Jim

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Economic Impacts Cont'd

Projected Solar Project Annual Tax Revenue – Christmas Valley
Based on \$5 million assessed value



Tuttle, Casaria R.

From: Todd Gregory [tgregory@obsidianfinance.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 13, 2011 11:56 AM
To: casaria.r.tuttle@state.or.us; Jinings, Jon
Cc: richard.whitman@state.or.us; pam@friends.org; Jon Skidmore; Nicole Hughes; Albrich, Elaine; Megan Walseth Decker; Adam Schumaker; Troy Gagliano
Subject: Map of Obsidian properties in Christmas Valley
Attachments: Obsidian projects.pdf

Jon and Casaria,

The fiction that Obsidian has surrounded farmers in Christmas Valley with their solar projects has been espoused time and time again by Mr. Perkins and other members of his anti-solar group. I have attached a tax lot map that I would like to have posted on the rules advisory committee's on-line repository. This is a map that was actually prepared by Linn Oster's attorney (hired by Mr. Perkins) as an exhibit for their unsuccessful LUBA appeal that was decided last month. As you can clearly see from the map, none of our sites surround anyone – in fact, our southernmost site is over a mile from any property owned by the "surrounded rancher" in question. Each one of our projects, Outback, Sage and Lost Forest are at least one mile from each other.

To allow anyone on the committee to assert that we are somehow "islanding" or surrounding farmers with our projects is to allow them to attempt to mislead other committee members and commissioners in the face of the truth.

Thank you.

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EXHIBIT C Revised June 9, 2010

-  OBSIDIAN SOLAR PANEL PROPERTIES
-  RON KERSEY PROPERTIES
-  LINN OSTER PROPERTIES

