

Jeff Watson

From: Patrick Gigstead <pgigstead@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 07, 2016 3:39 PM
To: Jeff Watson
Subject: Iron Horse Solar Farm

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Good afternoon Jeff,

I am taking this opportunity to write in my opposition to the Iron Horse Solar Farm. It is my understanding that this proposed farm is to operate on a current timothy hay farm east of Kittitas near Clerf Road. I have supported energy projects in the past, but in this case I am not in favor, and this is why. My son, along with many others in this valley make their living off of working farms. Now my son will not likely continue working in farming after college but now it is allowing him to complete his degree without debt. As a family who does not earn enough to pay his tuition, and one that doesn't qualify for any aid, he is left to pay for his education on his own. Turning prime farm land into a bank of solar panels seems to me to take away needed jobs in our county. Jobs that kids use to get through school, to support young families etc. Yes there will be some jobs building the farm, but those are temporary. Farms in this valley are the back bone, and provide a huge boost to the economy. Heck it is the economy... I would think their are better places in the valley to build these farms, perhaps in some of the thousands of acres of shrub and sage all around us? Maybe on the land beneath the wind turbines? I don't know, just anywhere but on working farm land. I appreciate your time reading this letter, and also appreciate the position you are in, as I too have been in a similar position while on the School Board, no decision will please all. Thank you again for your time.