



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2478		DATE: 3/30/2026
COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: ALAYNA FORCK		PHONE NUMBER: 573-893-4181
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI CORN GROWERS ASSOCIATION		TITLE:
ADDRESS: 3118 EMERALD LN		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65109
EMAIL: aforck@mocorn.org	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 3/30/2026 4:17 PM

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MCGA supports HB 2478, especially as it relates to the use of eminent domain for wind and solar development. We believe that decisions about using agricultural land for these projects should stay with the individual farmer and landowner. These decisions should not be imposed through the use of eminent domain.

We also recognize how important it is to protect agricultural land for future generations. For that reason, we oppose the unnecessary use of eminent domain to convert farmland into non-agricultural uses.

In addition, Missouri Corn supports having solar energy facilities assessed at the county level so they are subject to property taxes. We do not support classifying solar facilities as agricultural operations for tax purposes.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. AC "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF		PHONE NUMBER: 314-440-9000	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: STATE PUBLIC ADVOCACY		TITLE: STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE	
ADDRESS: P.O. BOX #1535			
CITY: O' FALLON		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63366
EMAIL: ArnieDienoff@Mail.Com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 3/30/2026 11:58 PM	

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I am in Support of this Bill. I Support of the Protections, taxes, Required Permits, Set-Backs and Protections for Citizens across Our State.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: BEV EHLEN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/30/2026 9:50 PM
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: CATHERINE VOGELWEID		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 3/29/2026 10:53 AM
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Fire Hazards of Utility Scale Solar on Farmland

Utility scale solar facilities placed on farmland introduce a set of fire related hazards that differ significantly from those associated with traditional agricultural operations. The combination of solar arrays, extensive electrical infrastructure, dry vegetation, and co located Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) creates conditions that can elevate fire potential and complicate emergency response.

- **Fire Hazards from Solar Arrays on Farmland --** Solar farms require miles of electrical wiring, inverters, transformers, and high voltage equipment. Faults in these components—such as arc flashes, insulation failures, or overheating—can ignite surrounding vegetation, allowing a small ignition to spread rapidly across large tracts of land. Local fire departments typically lack specialized training or equipment for solar specific electrical fires, raising concerns about response effectiveness.
- **Added Risks from Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) --**The introduction of BESS units—typically large lithium ion battery containers—significantly increases fire complexity. Lithium ion batteries can enter thermal runaway, a chain reaction in which overheating cells ignite neighboring cells, producing intense, long duration fires that are extremely difficult to extinguish. These fires release hazardous gases that pose risks to firefighters and nearby residents.
- **Challenges for Rural and Agricultural Settings --** Farmland locations often lack nearby fire hydrants, meaning responders must rely on portable water supplies. This is especially problematic because lithium ion fires may require extended cooling periods. Rural departments may also be unfamiliar with the toxic off gassing associated with BESS fires, which can require evacuation zones and specialized protective equipment. Additionally, solar farms can restrict access for emergency vehicles due to fencing, narrow service roads, and dense panel layouts. These constraints can delay response times and allow fires to grow larger before containment.

Toxic Contaminant Risks of Utility Scale Solar on Farmland

Utility scale solar development on agricultural land introduces a range of environmental and toxic contamination risks that stem from land disturbance, soil degradation, stormwater impacts and the potential release of hazardous materials during construction, operation, or decommissioning. Solar energy’s footprint on farmland raises concerns about long term soil health, water quality, and contamination pathways.

- **Land Disturbance and Soil Degradation --** Construction of large solar arrays requires

grading, trenching, and compaction of soil across hundreds or thousands of acres. Soil erosion, dust generation, and runoff issues during both construction and operation are common problems.

- **Water Quality and Hydrological Impacts** -- Soil disturbance increases sediment runoff into nearby waterways. Impervious surfaces created by panel rows alter drainage patterns, concentrating flows and increasing erosion risk. Contaminants from construction equipment, lubricants, or herbicides used for vegetation control may also enter surface or groundwater systems.
- **Toxic Contaminant Risks from Solar Components** -- Solar panels contain materials such as lead, cadmium, and other heavy metals. Under normal operation these materials are encapsulated, but damage from storms, fire, or improper disposal can release contaminants into soil or water. The Solar Energy Environmental Considerations guide identifies hazardous materials as a key environmental concern for utility scale solar facilities. Broken panels, inverter fluids, transformer oils, and cleaning chemicals can all introduce pollutants if not properly managed.
- **Long Term Site Integrity and Decommissioning Risks** -- Because many solar leases last 25–50 years, concerns arise about the condition of farmland after removal of equipment. Soil degradation and compaction may persist for decades, and contamination from damaged panels or buried infrastructure may complicate reclamation. Without strict decommissioning standards, abandoned materials or residual contaminants could impair future agricultural use.

Summary

Utility scale solar development on farmland carries environmental risks that extend beyond visual or land use concerns. Fire, soil erosion, hydrological disruption and potential contamination from hazardous materials all require careful planning and oversight. Solar energy deployment on agricultural land must be balanced with protections for soil health, water quality, and long term land productivity. Robust siting criteria, vegetation management, spill prevention plans, and decommissioning requirements are essential to minimize these risks.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: CHARLES GREG CRAWFORD		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/30/2026 10:27 PM

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I am requesting the Chair and all committee members to be forwarded my testimony, thank you in advance for complying.

Thank you for allowing me to share my story and speak to the importance of HB 2478..

My name is Charles Greg Crawford. Our family has been farming for four generations, spanning nearly 100 years. Within a ten-mile radius of our family homestead, we have identified more than 10,000 acres proposed for industrial-scale solar power plants. (15.6 squares miles)

I am a huge property rights supporter, but industrial-scale solar is a different animal. This Nation has not faced anything like this removing millions of acres of the most productive farmland without any protections for the citizens and their communities.

The federal government has effectively given utility-scale solar a free pass like no other industry. Every other industrial energy sector must comply with rigorous federal, state, and local regulations, including oversight from the EPA. Farmers are no exception. If we receive federal subsidies or loans, we must comply with strict mandated federal guidelines.

For example, federal requirements dictate the spacing, contour, number of risers, and drainage tile size when terraces are built. Also, we are required to complete environmental reviews simply to erect a 32,000-bushel grain bin next to five existing bins that were previously approved. The USDA inspects these sites to ensure full compliance.

CAFOs are regulated by the DNR (Department of Natural Resources) because of their potential impact on surrounding communities, yet the magnitude of land use and number of citizens affected by industrial-scale solar far exceeds those operations—without any oversight. Yet it is mind-blowing that utility-scale solar—an industrial land use with a footprint unlike anything we have ever faced in this country—has no comparable federal and state regulations and permits.

I couldn't pave a 100-acre parking lot on my farm without every imaginable government agency showing up to stop it. But what is the difference? Each solar panel functions the same, shedding water along a consistent drip line similar to a paved parking lot. In fact, many utility-scale solar projects are actively removing existing drainage tile systems. That reality demands protections to prevent erosion and contamination before damage occurs.

The economic impact is significant. A 2020 study by the Michigan State University Center for Economic

Analysis shows that counties lose approximately one million dollars per year for every 1,000 acres removed from agricultural production. That means Callaway County alone could lose roughly ten million dollars annually. The loss of farm revenue is devastating and leads to collateral damage—job losses, closed ag-related businesses, and a cascading decline of revenue across other sectors of the rural economy.

We don't have to speculate about these impacts. We can look at rural communities north of Highway 36 following the implementation of the Conservation Reserve Program in 1985. Large amounts of farmland were removed from production, farm revenue stopped circulating, jobs disappeared, and local businesses closed.

All we are asking for is a fair tax so affected communities are not worse off. These tax dollars are needed to equip and train rural fire departments to respond to emergencies at massive solar facilities, keep schools solvent and improve teacher pay, and fund essential county services. I believe it is fair to cap utility-scale solar at two percent of county cropland, so it is less likely that no single county loses its agricultural economic engine. I would also consider \$6,000 per megawatt, with an inflation accelerator, to be fair. Even at that level, solar maintains a tax advantage over every other energy and commercial sector. Personally my residential property tax is \$3950 and it went up this past year by \$393 or 10%. My home is a fraction of the assessed value compared to the cost of the equipment to produce one megawatt and they are paying less taxes than I am, does that make sense? No wonder the tax burden keeps rising and is so heavy on the ordinary citizen.

Establishing statewide standards would not stop solar development. Clear, consistent rules provide predictability for developers, protect landowners and communities, and ensure projects are responsibly designed from the beginning. Good actors benefit from clear expectations, while bad actors are held accountable.

Specifically, Missouri should establish parameters that address:

Appropriate siting to avoid prime farmland, floodplains, and sensitive ecosystems

Soil conservation, stormwater management, and erosion control

Wildlife habitat protection to prevent pushing the deer populations onto adjacent croplands, resulting in greater damage and loss to crops

Standards for recycling solar panels that contain heavy metals such as lead and cadmium

Clear decommissioning and land-restoration requirements backed by financial assurances

Meaningful public input and transparency before permits are granted

These are not radical ideas. Without standards, local governments are forced to react rather than plan. Neighbors feel shut out of decisions that directly affect their property, livelihoods, and quality of life. Missouri should not lag behind while our farmland, water resources, and rural communities bear the consequences.

Will utility scale solar be our generation of the strip mines to clean up once the subsidies dry up as the country's focus returns to a dependable base load energy sources, such as nuclear.

I'll leave you with this final thought: we are repeatedly told solar is the most cost-effective and efficient energy source, yet it depends heavily on subsidies and preferential tax treatment while paying only a fraction of what other industries pay. Shouldn't everyone compete on a level playing field and let the best business model rise to the top?

I respectfully ask that you support HB 2478 as written. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Charles Greg Crawford 3-30-26



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CHERI MEADOWS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/30/2026 8:55 PM	
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As large as these solar power plants are, (thousands of acres) there is a definite need for strong safety guidelines as well as comprehensive decommissioning standards so farmers and the surrounding neighbors are protected when these facilities are shut down, destroyed by wind/hail/tornadoes, or replaced by energy facilities that are more reliable.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: CHRISTIE MCLIN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/30/2026 5:06 PM
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I support this bill. Our local elected officials need more power to make decisions at the local level. I support greater setbacks due to family health concerns from damaging EMF's.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: CHRISTOPHER MCLIN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/30/2026 4:58 PM
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I support this bill. It gives local commissioners the power to act a lower level and in conjunction with the wishes of their constituents. I support greater setbacks as members of my family have central nervous disorders that are greatly effected by EMF's produced by such projects.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CODY HOLT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/30/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: HEATHER LANGE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 3/30/2026 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JERRY JAY STANFORD		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/30/2026 9:38 AM
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I am in support of this bill because I want at least 1000ft setbacks due to the safety of my family and others. The solar company has plans to surround my house and property on 3 sides and with the amount of wind that we have here on a daily basis it would not be safe for us to have these around my property. I also have concerns of water contamination for myself, my animals, and my neighbors due to the runoff going to our water supply.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JOHN BURNS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/30/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JOSEPH BURNS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/30/2026 6:11 PM
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I support this bill and encourage the House to approve it. We need these guardrails for safety and permitting in order to properly and safely manage the huge affect that solar will bring to our communities. By approving this bill we are supporting common sense and ensuring that citizens and their rights are respected and protected.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: KATHY JO MCWILLIAMS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/30/2026 12:59 PM
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I am In Support of HB2478 Lewis for the added protections of Missouri farm landowners and their livestock. We raised sheep and I can testify the noise levels and heat increases as well as any water issues are not in the interest of Missouri farmers. Thank you for your considerations.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LAURA STINSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/30/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MARK C TAYLOR		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/30/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: MARK FIEGENBAUM		PHONE NUMBER: 573-690-8580
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI FARM BUREAU		TITLE:
ADDRESS: 701 S COUNTRY CLUB DRIVE		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65102
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/30/2026 12:00 AM

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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: NATHAN REMOLE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/30/2026 6:20 PM

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I strongly support HB2478 as the projected project is to come right through our home area so this is a very relevant bill that has the potential to effect us very personally. Thank you



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: PAM MCLIN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/30/2026 5:31 PM
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I support this bill in all aspects. Local officials need more power to approve/deny large scale projects. Adjacent landowners need greater setbacks to help curb dangerous health effects of large solar farms.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: RANDY MCLIN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/30/2026 5:41 PM
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I support this bill. Local authorities need more say in protecting the health of their constituents.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ROBERT MARTIN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/30/2026 9:33 AM
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I am support of this bill. The need to have regulations on an unreliable energy source such as industrial solar has never been greater to protect the environment, keeping these facilities as far away from homes, churches, and schools as possible. There are always hazards associated with power plants and that is why utilities purchase so much land around reliable generating plants. To keep the public away. So why would we want to allow a solar plant to be constructed no less than 2500 feet from the public. The dangers are endless with wildfire risk, noise pollution, soil contaminations to name a few.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN		PHONE NUMBER: 573-310-4655	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MID-MO LANDOWNERS ALLIANCE		TITLE: TEAM LEADER	
ADDRESS: 1948 STATE ROAD DD			
CITY: AUXVASSE		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65231
EMAIL: Susanraeburns@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 3/30/2026 1:41 PM	

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Testimony for HB2875

Susan Burns

My name is Susan Burns from Callaway County. I have been active at the legislature trying to get regulation on industrial solar for over five years. As a team leader in the Mid-MO Landowners Alliance made up of 90 plus families in a five county area, I have networked with thousands of people who are very concerned about their safety and the safety of their community where these big industrial solar developments will exist. According to a report I developed by talking with every commissioner in the state in 2025, we are facing development of 88,200 acres of industrial solar in Missouri in the near future. I have attached this report to my testimony showing 37 county commissioners who are very concerned about how this will impact their counties. These commissioners have no power to permit or regulate industrial solar in their counties unless they have planning and zoning. Rural counties by and large do not have planning and zoning. 72 of the 114 counties in Missouri do not have planning and zoning.

I support the part of the bill that gives commissioners permitting and regulatory rights. These elected officials are close and accessible to the citizens concerned about their property, health and safety. We have a project under construction in Callaway county and I know that my commissioners travel to the project site at least weekly and they are dealing with several problems with no legal authority to correct or negotiate the problems that are arising daily regarding both county issues and adjoining property issues. They are most aware of the water problems in the county and are close enough to monitor both water and soil erosion which can and does occur on several projects. Giving our commissioners the authority to both help their citizens and to negotiate permitting and regulation issues is the best way forward in solar regulation and development. Citizens need local government familiar with their specific problems to be the ones dealing with these issues, not an entity that is far removed from both the project and the people impacted by the projects. Currently under construction is a 7,000 acre solar facility that will impact the safety of over 138 families in our county. There are thousands of others facing these same problems with no protections.

I want to tell you my personal story. I live on a 135 year old century farm in the original house that my great grandparents built with their own hands in 1890. My grandchildren are seventh generation on this land. There is a 2,400 acre solar project beginning construction in the next year that will be on both the west side and the north side of my land. My house sits within 50 feet of my perimeter on the west and my sons home sits about 100 feet from the perimeter on the north. We live on the prairie and the wind always blows from the west to the east. If there is a fire on the solar facility and if the solar panels have been cracked or damaged b wind, etc. it is possible that chemical smoke will blow into my house within a few minutes of the fire beginning. The fire itself could easily jump the road and burn my barn and my home. My son lives on the north side and has always had a water

drainage issue from the field to his north, which the previous two owners have been able to stop. The water runs across his yard and into his pond. He also has a deep well which he is concerned about. My daughter-in-law has ear and balance problems and there is research being done now that shows that the EMFs from the solar panels can cause tinnitus. The CDC has said that further research needs to be done as there is some concern that the EMFs could cause tumors in children in growth spurts. All this is enough concern that my son will have to leave his dream home if the panels are put less than 1000 feet from his home so that these dangers are somewhat alleviated. So I stand to lose close contact with my children and grandchildren in addition to damage to property, decrease in crop yield due to the heat effect of panels raising the temperature about 30 degrees in the summer. Plus our own safety and health are at risk.

Please help. Please enact regulations that provide for the safety and economic security of my family and property. You have the power to save or destroy thousands of families just like mine who are having to deal with this.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2478		DATE: 3/30/2026	
COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN BURNS		PHONE NUMBER: 573-310-4655	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MID MO LANDOWNERS ALLIANCE		TITLE: TEAM LEADER	
ADDRESS: 1948 STATE ROAD PP			
CITY: AUXVASSE		STATE: MO	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/30/2026 12:00 AM	
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TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: TONYA R. STANFORD		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/30/2026 9:17 AM
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I fully support this bill. My farm is going to be surrounded by industrial solar panels and I feel it's a serious danger to me and my family as well as my pets/animals. We have very high winds all throughout the year.



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TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ANDREW J KNOTT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/29/2026 9:32 PM	
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I am opposed to this bill as it would make clean energy such as solar projects more difficult to build in Missouri. Having installed solar on my house several years ago, I can attest to how much it has saved on our family's monthly electric bill. With the increasing affordability crisis in this country and fossil fuel costs rising every day, we need energy sources where the "fuel" is free, such as solar and wind. Missouri needs to be encouraging, not discouraging, utility-scale solar farms that reduce our dependence on fossil fuels that are imported into Missouri. We do not produce coal, petroleum, or natural gas in Missouri. Solar (and wind) are homegrown energy sources that create jobs and economic benefits right here in our own state.



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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: JEREMY LAFAVER		PHONE NUMBER: 816-654-3666
REPRESENTING: CLEAN GRID ALLIANCE		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY: KCMO	STATE: MO	ZIP: 64113
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/30/2026 12:00 AM
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TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: JONATHAN		PHONE NUMBER: 314-540-4400	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MO. SOLAR ENERGY INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION (MOSEIA)		TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 258 MADELINES PARK CIR			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65109
EMAIL: dolan@moseia.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 3/30/2026 12:56 PM	

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MOSEIA members want Missouri to be a “go to” state for energy freedom and independence and we support an “all-of-the-above” approach to energy production, regulation, and critical certainty in the regulation and taxation of utility scale solar energy systems.

MOSEIA promotes fair, effective, and smart solar regulation which respects local control, provides effective regulatory guardrails, and consistent, competitive, and fair taxation for “utility scale” solar development (aka “solar farms”).

SB#879 (Fitzwater) / HB#2478 (Lewis) and now HCS HB#2762 (Bromley/Banderman) appear to be this session’s vehicle(s) for unwise solar regulation and taxation. They remain overly punitive and would make Missouri the most anti-solar energy state in the nation. They usurp local control, institute punitive siting and permitting regulations, restrict property rights and farmer’s land use, and levy the highest tax rate for solar in the nation. As written, these bills will effectively end Missouri’s solar generation future at a time where we need this electric generation and ratepayers need the savings derived from the same.

That is why MOSEIA encourages a thorough debate, detailed amendments, and immediate negotiations. We need a smarter policy that is consistent and competitive with other states. Without major changes and an agreement by all stakeholders, please oppose SB#879 / HB#2478 and HCS HB#2762 and consider the issues below during active debate and create a better policy for Missouri:

1. Size - Commonly referred to as “solar farms,” utility scale solar projects refer to projects of 10 megawatts (MW) or larger. They are often placed on agricultural land and designed for the purpose of generating electricity for transmission to the electric grid or for large users such as a data centers. MOSEIA supports an amendment limiting the scope of this legislation to projects over 5MW (or 40 acres), as well as ensuring rooftop solar is NOT included or impacted.

2. Permitting Jurisdiction - One size never fits all in state law and regulation and two permits are worse than one. The senate bill includes a new state permit requirement in addition to any county approval(s). Inquiry and amendments to clarify the jurisdictional authority and permitting pathways is essential. Counties want to keep their joint development agreement and zoning authority. Get it wrong and Missouri will be seen even more as hostile and uncertain in its solar energy regulations and taxation policy.

3. Taxation - Due to a 2022 state supreme court case, Missouri remains in an uncertain arena of how and what to tax. This bill uses a per MW nameplate generation capacity standard which is a start. Yet, it also appears to require taxing and classifying all real and personal property commercially and 2% per year escalators forever. If unchanged by debate or amendment, Assessors will aggressively act, farmers will be taxed, and Missouri will have the highest tax rate for solar in the nation = A de-facto solar ban.

- **The answer lies in choosing one consistent and fair method. Either assess a “percentage good” of the real/personal property (aka property & project value) OR apply a nameplate generation capacity per MW (hard cap) like most states.**

- **To remain competitive with other states, a maximum per MW cap needs to be no more than \$2K per MW, if any Assessor discretion is permitted, and around \$3K per MW if no discretion. Chapter 100 Bonds & PILOT agreements must be protected.**

4. Siting - Site improvements like fencing, restricting light or decibel levels, and setbacks involve can be done to accommodate neighboring properties. The key is balancing the requirements to ensure solar developers are good actors, engaging the public, and working with non-participating property owners of full-time dwellings (homes, etc.). Relevance and nuance can provide fair mitigation. Yet, requiring universal or huge setbacks, restrictions, etc., when unnecessary, will actually result in more Ag land acquisition.

5. Acreage Limitations – The Senate bill limits solar land use by an unworkable and restrictive percentage, an unclear method of measurement, and would vastly limit Missouri’s energy generation and raise utility rates. Investor-owned utilities develop more solar than most and they too will be impacted and oppose this.

Please debate and act for fairness, certainty, consistency, and competitiveness and do no harm to Missouri’s energy generation.

Only with through better policy development and negotiation can legislators and stakeholders meet the moment to develop a solution resulting in fair taxation and regulation of utility scale solar, energy and economic development, and relief for ratepayers.

For further information, contact MOSEIA’s Executive Director, Jonathan Dolan email: dolan@moseia.com cell: 314-540-4400



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COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KELLSY MACDONALD		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/29/2026 9:16 PM	

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Missouri needs to vote NO to HB2478. Abruptly cancelling projects in this manner is completely irresponsible to developers who entered contracts in good faith. Passing more legislation around the industry is strongly encouraged, but halting an entire industry with such vague language about creating regulation around 2027-ish is jeopardizing the development of our state. We already import energy from our neighbors because we don't meet demand. Let the projects in construction be completed, and prepare guardrails with intention and expert knowledge - not fear-mongering and blanket statements. Let farmers have the freedoms for how they manage their land, let Missouri meet its power needs with the fastest and cheapest source, and do the work to get this legislation you want on the floor.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: KORTNIE HUDDLESTON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/30/2026 9:51 PM

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I submit this testimony in opposition to HB2478, which represents a coordinated attack on Missouri’s ability to transition to a clean energy economy. This legislation erects a series of barriers designed to slow, stop, and financially cripple solar energy development across the state.

The bill imposes arbitrary and severe restrictions, including a county-by-county cap limiting solar projects to two percent of cropland. This is not a reasonable land use policy; it is a de facto ban that prioritizes the preferences of a vocal minority over the collective needs of Missourians for affordable, clean energy. Giving any resident standing to sue developers based solely on a subjective belief that this cap has been met invites a flood of nuisance lawsuits designed to delay and bankrupt projects before they break ground.

The mandated setback requirements of 1,000 feet from property lines and 250 feet from public roads are equally destructive. These distances are excessive and appear designed not to mitigate legitimate impacts, but to render most viable sites unbuildable. This effectively gives a single adjacent landowner veto power over a project meant to serve the broader community.

The bill also undermines local control by imposing a one-size-fits-all county permitting process while simultaneously limiting a county’s ability to approve projects that do not meet these rigid state mandates. It then compounds this by attempting to strip solar developers of eminent domain authority for primary facilities, while leaving that power intact for fossil fuel pipelines. This double standard protects the incumbent fossil fuel industry while handcuffing new clean energy infrastructure.

From a progressive perspective, this bill is a transparent giveaway to entrenched corporate interests at the expense of working families. By making solar development prohibitively difficult and expensive, it locks Missouri into a reliance on volatile fossil fuel markets, keeping energy costs high and ceding the economic benefits of the clean energy transition—including good-paying construction and maintenance jobs—to other states.

This legislation also raises serious environmental justice concerns. It empowers wealthy landowners and well-organized opposition groups to block projects in rural communities, while offering no similar protections to the urban and suburban communities that have long borne the pollution burden of traditional power plants.

We cannot legislate our way out of the climate crisis by banning the solutions. We should be removing

barriers to clean energy, not erecting them. I urge a vote against this bill.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: LISA PANNETT		PHONE NUMBER: 573-280-1585	
REPRESENTING: ARMORVINE		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 226 KADIE CT			
CITY: LINN CREEK		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65052
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/30/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MARCIA E LANE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/30/2026 4:20 PM
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Dear Committee members,

Thank you for reading my comments.

As a landowner who is currently investing in a solar project on our 5-generation family farm, I would like to start by saying I am opposed to many of the points of HB2478. My sisters and I are equity investors – not lessors – in this project. Our goal is to provide low cost electricity to local schools, hospitals and businesses. We are not a utility grade commercial project.

The bill as presented does not define the scope of the solar projects subject to this legislation. Is this addressing privately-owned wholesale solar projects where the landowner is an equity investor or commercial utility grade solar projects owned by commercial utility companies who lease the land on which the project is built? Does the permitting process apply to all solar – private and commercial? Even if the county is not zoned? Our rural county does not have zoning and respects the landowners right to use their land.

This bill is far too cumbersome. It blocks the good that can be done with solar projects such as ours. And it blocks companies who are considering doing business within Missouri – who will just move their jobs, revenue, tax base, etc. on to a friendlier State.

As an equity investor one has the ability to select the end-user of our electricity. In this case the electricity generated by our solar would stay in Missouri, benefiting the local schools and hospitals and lowering their energy costs. Missouri infrastructure and education needs all of the support and economic benefits it can get. We need strong infrastructure and a well-educated populus.

Standard setback for solar farms is 200'. You will find many in Iowa with only a 50' setback. A 1000' set-back will limit the scope of solar farms unnecessarily.

Blanket taxing as commercial vs agricultural does not allow for agrivoltaics – the use of both solar and agriculture on the property. Solar farms benefit the environment by allowing pollinators and native plants to return to the land, and along with it the habitat we have lost over the years. Farmers have the option of using the land for sheep or other compatible animals.

As a farmer, I believe we have the right to produce the crop of our choice – what was once yellow corn, then white corn because our yellow corn markets degraded. And now the crop we wish to produce for

our benefit and for the benefit of our communities is solar energy.

My sisters and I would be happy to speak to the committee in person and provide greater insights into the decision to move toward solar energy. Please feel to contact any or all of us at your convenience and we will make ourselves available to meet with you.

Thank you for allowing me to submit this testimony.

**Respectfully yours,
Beverly Jones
Pat Jones Stevens
Marcia Jones Lane**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MICHAEL DREYER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/30/2026 9:50 PM	

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From a progressive perspective, this bill is a transparent giveaway to entrenched corporate interests at the expense of working families. By making solar development prohibitively difficult and expensive, it locks Missouri into a reliance on volatile fossil fuel markets, keeping energy costs high and ceding the economic benefits of the clean energy transition—including good-paying construction and maintenance jobs—to other states.

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We cannot legislate our way out of the climate crisis by banning the solutions. We should be removing

barriers to clean energy, not erecting them. I urge a vote against this bill.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: NOEL TORPEY		PHONE NUMBER: 816-674-8444	
REPRESENTING: AREVON		TITLE: PRINCIPAL	
ADDRESS: 217 EAST CAPITOL			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL: ntorpey@hbstrategies.us	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/30/2026 11:21 AM	

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This bill as written, would make it very difficult to do business in Missouri for Solar companies.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SARAH BERRY		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/30/2026 6:13 AM

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HB 2478 imposes a comprehensive regulatory scheme governing solar energy development, including siting restrictions, density caps, taxation provisions, and limitations on property rights. As drafted, several provisions raise substantial constitutional concerns.

The bill imposes multiple overlapping restrictions on solar development, including fixed setback requirements, a county-wide cap on development, and discretionary permitting authority. In combination, these provisions create a substantial risk that otherwise lawful uses of property may be denied or rendered economically infeasible. Where regulation effectively eliminates viable use of property, it raises concerns under the Takings Clause.¹

The statute further grants county commissions broad authority to deny or materially alter proposed projects without articulating clear or objective standards governing those decisions.

The absence of defined criteria creates a risk of arbitrary application, raising due process concerns.

In addition, the bill establishes a framework that applies uniquely to solar energy development, including caps, setbacks, and taxation provisions not imposed on other forms of energy generation. Differential treatment of similarly situated economic activity may be subject to challenge where it lacks a rational and consistent basis.

The provision granting standing to any resident of a county to bring suit to enforce the statutory cap, without requiring a showing of individualized injury, introduces additional litigation risk and may result in inconsistent enforcement.

Finally, the bill’s taxation structure—including a fixed per-megawatt liability and discretionary exemptions—raises concerns regarding uniformity and consistent application.

These issues are structural. They arise from the interaction of multiple provisions within the bill rather than any single section in isolation.

These constitutional concerns are evident from the structure of the statute and are not dependent on how the law is applied in practice.

Legislative Notice:

The General Assembly is on notice that HB 2478 presents foreseeable constitutional challenges under

takings, due process, equal protection, Commerce Clause, and state constitutional uniformity doctrines. The cumulative effect of the bill's restrictions materially increases the likelihood of as-applied challenges and associated litigation costs.

Footnotes:

Lucas v. South Carolina Coastal Council, 505 U.S. 1003, 1015 (1992); Penn Central Transp. Co. v. New York City, 438 U.S. 104, 124 (1978).

This bill layers multiple restrictions on a single industry in a way that risks eliminating viable property use, creating predictable constitutional challenges and avoidable litigation costs.

HB 2478 presents moderate to high fiscal exposure, including:

**Regulatory takings litigation
§1983 claims with fee shifting under 42 U.S.C. §1988
Commerce Clause challenges affecting energy markets
Ongoing local enforcement litigation**

Exposure is likely case-specific but high-value, particularly in large-scale project disputes.



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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: TYLER TRAVERS		PHONE NUMBER:
REPRESENTING: RENEW MISSOURI		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: MO
EMAIL:		ZIP:
ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 3/30/2026 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: ZACH MONROE		PHONE NUMBER: 573-508-2467	
REPRESENTING: AMEREN MISSOURI		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 101 MADISON ST			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL: zmonroe@ameren.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/30/2026 4:58 PM	
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