



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

| | | | |
|--|-------------|--|------|
| BILL NUMBER: HB 2816 | | DATE: 2/4/2026 | |
| COMMITTEE: Utilities | | | |
| 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: ARNIE C. AC "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF | | PHONE NUMBER: | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: | |
| ADDRESS: | | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: | ZIP: |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: | SUBMIT DATE: 2/4/2026 12:00 AM | |
| THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo. | | | |



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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: 2/4/2026 5:40 PM | |
| THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo. | | | |

I am for these bills but ask that the items in the bill be considered higher taxes then \$2500, setbacks increased from 500' to 1000'+, and lower percent of cropland form 4% to 2%.



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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: 2/4/2026 5:39 PM |
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I am for these bills but ask that the items in the bill be considered higher taxes then \$2500, setbacks increased from 500' to 1000'+, and lower percent of cropland form 4% to 2%.



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| WITNESS NAME | | | |
| INDIVIDUAL: | | | |
| WITNESS NAME: GABE CURTIS HETTINGER | | PHONE NUMBER: | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: | |
| ADDRESS: | | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: | ZIP: |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 2/2/2026 10:58 AM | |

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

My name is Gabe Hettinger, and I appreciate the opportunity to share my testimony. I served in the Missouri Army National Guard and deployed to Afghanistan. When I came home, like many veterans, I was looking for peace, stability, and a place to put down roots. I found that in rural Missouri—on a quiet piece of country property.

With my father and my brothers, I built our home by hand. This isn't just a house—it's the result of family labor, sacrifice, and pride. It's where I'm raising my three children: two boys and a girl. It's where they learned to ride bikes, explore nature, and understand what it means to grow up connected to the land.

We even buried our family dog under a tree in the yard. That's the kind of place this is to us—not an investment, not a temporary stop, but a permanent home. That sense of peace is now gone.

From my back porch, I can see massive solar panels dominating what used to be open fields and countryside. These panels are enormous, industrial in scale, and they come right up to the road with no meaningful buffer—no green screen, no trees, nothing to soften their impact.

At certain times of day, sunlight reflects off these panels toward Highway 3 like a house-sized spotlight. It's not subtle. It's blinding, and it raises real concerns about driver safety, not to mention the constant visual intrusion for those of us who live nearby.

Just as troubling is what has disappeared.

We used to regularly see bald eagles, turkeys, foxes, and other wildlife on and around our property. Since the solar installation went in, that wildlife is gone. The land no longer functions as habitat—it has been converted into an industrial zone, and the natural balance that existed here has been erased.

I want to be clear: I am not opposed to all renewable energy projects. I understand the need for responsible energy development. But where and how these projects are placed matters. Utility-scale solar does not belong immediately adjacent to homes, family farms, and rural neighborhoods without adequate setbacks, visual buffers, and consideration for wildlife, safety, and quality of life. Rural residents should not be asked to sacrifice everything that makes these places livable in the name of progress—especially when the impacts are permanent and irreversible.

I served this country believing that communities and families mattered. I still believe that. I'm asking you to slow down, listen to the people who live here, and recognize that not every open field is an appropriate place for industrial development.

Please reconsider projects like this and put stronger protections in place for rural landowners, families, and the character of our countryside.

Thank you for your time.



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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: 2/4/2026 12:00 AM | |
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| WITNESS NAME | | | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION: | | | |
| WITNESS NAME: MELISSA THOMAS | | PHONE NUMBER: 816-824-6014 | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: FREEDOM PRINCIPLE | | TITLE: | |
| ADDRESS: 1400 SW FAIRFAX ROAD | | | |
| CITY: LEES SUMMIT | | STATE: MO | ZIP: 64083 |
| EMAIL: melissaforliberty@pm.me | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 2/2/2026 8:34 PM | |

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I support this bill and Thank Representative Haden for wanting to stop/limit the Green Energy nonsense in our state!



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| WITNESS NAME | | | |
| INDIVIDUAL: | | | |
| WITNESS NAME: RUSSELL RIGGINS | | PHONE NUMBER: | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: | |
| ADDRESS: | | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: | ZIP: |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 2/4/2026 9:35 PM | |

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I am 100% in support of this bills. It's imperative that the solar and wind companies have government oversight. I know of a situation in Adair Co. where the solar panels are less than a 200 ft from someone's home. They have lived in that house for several years before the solar project was built. Their way of life has been destroyed! The Macon Co Solar project is being developed by a company out Philadelphia called Doral. So we have individuals from a Metropolitan City making decisions that is destroying rural Americans way of life in Missouri. They must be held accountable and have oversight!! I understand that property owners have the right to do what they want with their property because I am one. However when my tax dollars are subsidizing the project, I'm now involved. As a neighbor I should rights especially when my way of life is being destroyed. Just recently a survey crew from the Macon Co Solar project (Doral) was on my property without permission. I sign of things to come if they don't have oversight!



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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: 2/3/2026 8:34 PM | |
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A 500 ft. or less setback will not protect my yard and pond from the runoff from the neighboring solar-leased crop land that is uphill from my property.



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| WITNESS NAME | | | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION: | | | |
| WITNESS NAME: DAVID BUNGE | | PHONE NUMBER: 636-474-9067 | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: AEIMUTH RENEWABLES | | TITLE: PRESIDENT | |
| ADDRESS: 7800 FORSYTH BLVD, SUITE 300B | | | |
| CITY: ST. LOUIS | | STATE: MO | ZIP: 65105 |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: | SUBMIT DATE: 2/4/2026 12:00 AM | |
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| WITNESS NAME | | |
| INDIVIDUAL: | | |
| WITNESS NAME: DEBBIE STINSON | | PHONE NUMBER: |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: |
| ADDRESS: | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: ZIP: |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: | SUBMIT DATE: 2/4/2026 12:00 AM |
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| WITNESS NAME | | |
| REGISTERED LOBBYIST: | | |
| WITNESS NAME: JAMES HARRIS | | PHONE NUMBER: 573-761-7875 |
| REPRESENTING: NABHOLZ CONSTRUCTION | | TITLE: |
| ADDRESS: 122 E. HIGH., SUITE 200 | | |
| CITY: JEFFERSON CITY | | STATE: MO |
| | | ZIP: 65101 |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: | SUBMIT DATE: 2/4/2026 12:00 AM |
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| WITNESS NAME | | | |
| REGISTERED LOBBYIST: | | | |
| WITNESS NAME: JAMES OWEN | | PHONE NUMBER: 417-496-1924 | |
| REPRESENTING: RENEW MISSOURI ADVOCATES | | TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR | |
| ADDRESS: 501 FAY STREET SUITE 206 | | | |
| CITY: COLUMBIA | | STATE: MO | ZIP: 65201 |
| EMAIL: james@renewmo.org | ATTENDANCE: In-Person | SUBMIT DATE: 2/4/2026 8:31 AM | |
| THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo. | | | |

February 4, 2026

Renew Missouri Advocates, Inc.
 501 Fay Street, Suite 201
 Columbia, Missouri 65201

Re: Testimony to the House Utilities Committee on HB 2402 and 2816

To Chairman Bromley and Members of the Committee, Renew Missouri, a 501(c)(3) organized to promote clean energy policy, wishes to testify in opposition to House Bills 2402 and 2816. Both bills seek to impose statewide standards onto the assessment of property taxes on solar equipment as well as creating mechanisms to impose restrictive limitations on the development of such domestic energy in our state. The first is a sort of “punishment by tax” that would create a commercial designation for solar and battery equipment rather than treating it as agricultural use. The production of energy in terms of being defined as agricultural land use is already in the Missouri Constitution.

Which points to larger problems with these pieces of legislation. As provisions of this bill are designed to effectively ban solar, this would run contrary to the “Right to Farm” amendment passed by voters in 2014 that reads:

That agriculture which provides food, energy, health benefits, and security is the foundation and stabilizing force of Missouri's economy. To protect this vital sector of Missouri's economy, the right of farmers and ranchers to engage in farming and ranching practices shall be forever guaranteed in this state...

If either of these bills were to pass, it would lead to a Constitutional challenge. The reality is counties have the ability to reasonably regulate land through by adopting zoning ordinances. If a County Commission believes they should be able to restrict solar projects, they should put zoning laws in place. Absent that, the Legislature adopting this language shows a tendency to pick winners and losers through selective land use restrictions. Chinese-owned farms are okay under statutes. Solar would not be.

If the Missouri Legislature feels strongly about restricting or freeing up certain types of land use, we

would encourage a statewide zoning system that would be put in place a fully encompassing set of rules and regulations across all unincorporated areas.

Given the Constitutional and policy concerns the legislation raises, Renew Missouri urges you to vote “no” on House Bills 2402 and 2816 as it is presented to this Committee. Thank you.
With respect,

James Owen, Executive Director, Renew Missouri



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| WITNESS NAME | | | |
| REGISTERED LOBBYIST: | | | |
| WITNESS NAME: JIM GUINNER | | PHONE NUMBER: 314-797-2774 | |
| REPRESENTING: DORAL RENEWABLES | | TITLE: | |
| ADDRESS: 2 LOGAN SQUNE | | | |
| CITY: PHILADELPHIA | | STATE: PA | ZIP: 19103 |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: | SUBMIT DATE: 2/4/2026 12:00 AM | |
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| WITNESS NAME | | | |
| INDIVIDUAL: | | | |
| WITNESS NAME: JOHN STINSON | | PHONE NUMBER: | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: | |
| ADDRESS: | | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: | ZIP: |
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| WITNESS NAME | | | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION: | | | |
| WITNESS NAME: JONATHAN DOLAN | | PHONE NUMBER: 314-540-4400 | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI SOLAR ENERGY INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION (MOSEIA) | | TITLE: MOSEIA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR | |
| ADDRESS: 258 MADELINES PARK CIR | | | |
| CITY: JEFFERSON CITY | | STATE: MO | ZIP: 65109 |
| EMAIL: dolan@moseia.com | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 2/4/2026 7:43 AM | |
| THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo. | | | |

The Missouri Solar Energy Industries Association (MOSEIA) represents solar companies designing, selling, developing, installing, and servicing projects of all sizes. This bill provides a mechanism to address solar policy, permitting, siting, and taxation policy at the state level in Missouri. While we oppose the bill in its current form, we appreciate the opportunity to work together to create such a law and look forward to providing critical information on the needs of the sector and desires of all landowners through amending it in this committee and legislative session.



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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: 2/4/2026 10:48 PM |

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

I stand in strong opposition to House Bill 2816. From a progressive perspective, this legislation represents a massive corporate handout that sacrifices our state’s future on the altar of private energy profits.

The bill creates a special, flat-rate tax scheme for large-scale solar projects—\$2,500 per megawatt—that will drastically reduce their tax liability compared to standard commercial property assessment. This is a subsidized giveaway to utility corporations and large developers, robbing our communities, schools, and public services of vital, sustainable revenue for decades to come. At a time of urgent need for public investment, we cannot afford to lock in tax breaks for profitable energy giants.

Furthermore, the bill actively undermines local control and environmental justice. The optional county-level cap on solar development is weak and exempts utility-owned land, allowing unchecked industrial development. The setback provisions are insufficient to protect neighboring residents from industrial-scale projects and can be easily waived, placing corporate interests above community health and land rights.

True progress demands a just transition to renewable energy that prioritizes public ownership, community benefit, and robust funding for public goods. This bill does the opposite: it privatizes the benefits of clean energy while socializing the costs. I urge you to reject HB 2816 and instead pursue policies that ensure renewable energy development serves the people of Missouri, not just its powerful



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| WITNESS NAME | | |
| INDIVIDUAL: | | |
| WITNESS NAME: MARGOT MCMILLEN | | PHONE NUMBER: |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: |
| ADDRESS: | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: ZIP: |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 2/2/2026 1:17 PM |

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As one of the Callwegians concerned about the incursion of solar companies in our county and one that attended a meeting between solar companies and the county commission, I ask you to please add power for counties to regulate these behemoth projects, at least to limit the amount of land they can take and to require taxation above the taxation of most commercial properties. As these things are built, they will change the dynamic of the communities and harm property values...would you move into a place that's surrounded by solar farms? I doubt it. Again, Callaway loses.



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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: 2/4/2026 10:47 PM |

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I stand in strong opposition to House Bill 2816. From a progressive perspective, this legislation represents a massive corporate handout that sacrifices our state’s future on the altar of private energy profits.

The bill creates a special, flat-rate tax scheme for large-scale solar projects—\$2,500 per megawatt—that will drastically reduce their tax liability compared to standard commercial property assessment. This is a subsidized giveaway to utility corporations and large developers, robbing our communities, schools, and public services of vital, sustainable revenue for decades to come. At a time of urgent need for public investment, we cannot afford to lock in tax breaks for profitable energy giants.

Furthermore, the bill actively undermines local control and environmental justice. The optional county-level cap on solar development is weak and exempts utility-owned land, allowing unchecked industrial development. The setback provisions are insufficient to protect neighboring residents from industrial-scale projects and can be easily waived, placing corporate interests above community health and land rights.

True progress demands a just transition to renewable energy that prioritizes public ownership, community benefit, and robust funding for public goods. This bill does the opposite: it privatizes the benefits of clean energy while socializing the costs. I urge you to reject HB 2816 and instead pursue policies that ensure renewable energy development serves the people of Missouri, not just its powerful



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| WITNESS NAME | | | |
| INDIVIDUAL: | | | |
| WITNESS NAME: NOEL TORPEY | | PHONE NUMBER: | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: | |
| ADDRESS: | | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: | ZIP: |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 2/4/2026 6:52 AM | |
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Arevon would like to go record in opposition.



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| WITNESS NAME | | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION: | | |
| WITNESS NAME: RAY MCCARTY | | PHONE NUMBER: 573-634-2246 |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: ASSOCIATED INDUSTRIES OF MISSOURI | | TITLE: PRESIDENT/CEO |
| ADDRESS: 3234 W TRUMAN BLVD | | |
| CITY: JEFFERSON CITY | | STATE: MO |
| | | ZIP: 65109 |
| EMAIL: rmccarty@aimo.com | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 2/4/2026 9:20 AM |

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Associated Industries of Missouri opposes this bill, but we look forward to continuing the conversation on the proper guidelines and taxing method of solar installations.



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| WITNESS NAME | | | |
| INDIVIDUAL: | | | |
| WITNESS NAME: RHONDA BURNS | | PHONE NUMBER: | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: | |
| ADDRESS: | | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: | ZIP: |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 2/4/2026 11:32 PM | |

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Unfortunately, this bill does not go far enough in protecting counties and adjoining landowners and their property.

Taxation needs to be at least \$6000 per MW. Don't let the counties and state be robbed by accepting less than or even equal to what is being offered. Put the burden on the solar power plant companies. If they can't pay the higher taxation, then know they are not going to pay for and take responsibility on the back end of these deals when it is time for them to clean up their mess of metal and glass. They are set up as LLCs for a reason. They do not want to take responsibility. They want to take advantage of the citizens.

Homes and land near these power plants take a huge hit in value. No one wants to live near a power plant. There needs to be a minimum setback of 1000 feet from the property line, not from a dwelling to the panels.

For one, neighboring lands often drain onto their neighbor's land and cause erosion issues. Even with crops on the land, this is the case with our neighbor's.

If there is a tornado or hail damage, how much of the debris field is going to land on the adjoining property, unless there is a 1000 foot or more setback?

My husband and I live with our children next to land that now has a 40 year lease for a solar power plant on it. We cannot live with the noise of inverters screeching throughout the day and high voltage warning signs all the way down our backyard and the driveway where we take walks and ride bikes. An employee of a solar company admitted that they receive complaints about the noise from the inverters and that the stations should not have been placed near the perimeter of the project but rather in the center, away from property lines. Are there any restrictions or governance detailing where those are placed with the power plant. Even though he works on the planning for the project near our home, he said he wasn't sure about the placement of the inverter stations which would be adjoining our land. If our family has to move because of the power plant, our home and the part of the Century Farm on which it sits, which is worth over \$600,000, will bring 30-40% less--that is if anyone will even make an offer.

Where are our property rights and protections? Our children will be 50-60 years old by the time a 40 year lease is up. Will the power plant be cleaned up and the land rehabilitated? Who is actually accountable for making that happen? Will the LLC declare bankruptcy and walk away, leaving thousands of acres of land a hideous, mess of metal and glass.

If it is rehabilitated, perhaps our children could someday return to the family's remaining Century Farm land. What a travesty if not!

There should be no more than 2% of solar power plants covering the prime farm land in any county. How many more families have to be displaced for the sake of high-expense, low-efficiency power. It makes no sense, especially on prime farm land. This entire ordeal is devastating to our family and our

future livelihoods, and I repeat, what a travesty!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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| BILL NUMBER: HB 2816 | | DATE: 2/4/2026 | |
| COMMITTEE: Utilities | | | |
| 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: SARAH BERRY | | PHONE NUMBER: | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: | |
| ADDRESS: | | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: | ZIP: |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2026 9:15 AM | |
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I oppose HB 2816.

While framed as an “energy production projects” bill, it functions as a statewide property-tax and land-use restructuring bill with major constitutional, fiscal, and administrative consequences that have not been adequately analyzed or transparently justified.

1) HB 2816 is a tax-structure bill routed through Utilities

HB 2816 rewrites core property-tax statutes (Chapter 137 and Chapter 153) governing classification, assessment methodology, and jurisdiction for solar and wind projects.

That is not a narrow “utilities” matter—it is a tax policy overhaul with statewide implications for counties, school districts, and taxpayers. Moving this through a utilities committee does not change the legal reality that this bill changes how property is valued, classified, and taxed.

2) The per-megawatt “tax liability” model is legally vulnerable

Section 137.124 replaces traditional valuation with a fixed \$2,500 per MW tax liability adjusted annually by CPI.

That approach risks creating non-uniform taxation and disconnects tax liability from actual “true value in money” concepts used throughout Missouri’s property-tax framework.

If similarly situated property is treated differently without a constitutionally defensible rationale, this becomes a predictable challenge point.

Record point: If the intent is to create a payment-in-lieu-of-taxes regime (PILOT), the bill should say so plainly and build the legal scaffolding for it.

Right now it reads like an assessment shortcut.

3) It shifts classification and burdens onto “local rolls” without a fiscal backstop

The bill repeatedly pushes project property onto county assessors’ local tax rolls, while also changing what gets valued where and how.

That creates:

**Revenue volatility (especially in rural counties hosting projects),
Administrative burden (assessors must value specialized infrastructure with limited independent verification),
Dispute risk (appeals, equalization fights, and inconsistent county-to-county treatment).**

There is no clean, reliable “hold harmless” mechanism for schools and local districts here—just a rearrangement of who must fight about the numbers.

**4) The bill quietly grants utilities favorable treatment and creates uneven standards
HB 2816 explicitly exempts acres owned by utilities or electrical corporations from the county four-percent cropland cap calculation (Section 393.1120).**

That is not neutral policy.

**It creates a two-track system:
one rule for independent solar developers/landowners,
a softer set of constraints for utility-owned acreage.**

That’s a fairness and uniformity problem—and it will be treated that way by the public and, potentially, a court evaluating whether the law is being applied equitably.

5) The “opt-in” cap + setback scheme invites arbitrary enforcement and property-rights conflict

**The four-percent cap and 500-foot setback structure will generate predictable conflict:
boundary disputes (what counts as “cropland,” how acreage is measured, what happens with mixed parcels),
unequal application across counties,
neighbor disputes and waiver-pressure dynamics (“sign this agreement or else”).**

If this is going to be done at all, it needs clear standards, transparent procedures, and an appeal framework—not vague delegation that leaves counties holding the legal bag.

6) The bill increases litigation risk for counties and the state

HB 2816 combines tax classification changes, new valuation formulas, local land-use restrictions, and shifting assessment jurisdiction.

**That’s an invitation for:
assessment appeals,
constitutional challenges, and
administrative law disputes**

—paid for by local governments and taxpayers.

Footnotes:

Mo. Const. art. X, § 3 (uniformity within a class)

Mo. Const. art. X, § 4(b) (classification system and assessment ratios)

General requirements of equal and uniform taxation principles embedded in Missouri tax structure



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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| COMMITTEE: Utilities | | | |
| TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES | | | |
| WITNESS NAME | | | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION: | | | |
| WITNESS NAME: CURTIS WARFIELD JR | | PHONE NUMBER: 573-642-0737 | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: CALLAWAY COUNTY COMMISSION | | TITLE: EASTERN DISTRICT COMMISSIONER, CALLAWAY COUNTY | |
| ADDRESS: | | | |
| CITY: FULTON | | STATE: MO | ZIP: 65251 |
| EMAIL: cwarfield@callawaycounty.org | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 2/4/2026 3:59 PM | |
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I am the Eastern District Commissioner for Callaway County. In your hearing today you heard from several of my constituents, which a great many of them are Representative Haden's as well. I wanted to state i am not in favor nor against. I particularly want to see something, and my hopes are that it can be molded to work for all. I am very much in line with my constituents that testified. I would like to see provisions of more than \$2500 per megawatt nameplate as we have been in negotiations ourselves with Ranger and are at \$3000. Not speaking completely for the other Commissioners but opt in/out is workable. However, we think we would like to see two percent versus the four percent. I also think there should be some closer consideration of setbacks. I have citizens that have been inundated and surrounded by these projects. As a Commission we would like to have the ability to permit or deny. A very important detail is we want there to be oversight of these projects. Soil and water sampling need to be performed and any other environmental oversight. Possibly the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, which I believe they oversee this in many states with solar. I ask for more local authority and I thank you for listening to my constituents of Callaway County. Please consider their request and let's find a common ground.



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| WITNESS NAME | | |
| REGISTERED LOBBYIST: | | |
| WITNESS NAME: LISA PANNETT | | PHONE NUMBER: |
| REPRESENTING: ARMORINE | | TITLE: |
| ADDRESS: | | |
| CITY: JEFFERSON CITY | | STATE: MO |
| | | ZIP: 65101 |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: | SUBMIT DATE: 2/4/2026 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: 2/4/2026 12:00 AM |
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| WITNESS NAME | | | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION: | | | |
| WITNESS NAME: MELISSA VATTEROTT | | PHONE NUMBER: 314-727-0600 | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI COALITION FOR THE ENVIRONMENT | | TITLE: POLICY DIRECTOR | |
| ADDRESS: 725 KINGSLAND AVE SUITE 100, ST. LOUIS, MO 63130 | | | |
| CITY: ST. LOUIS, MO | | STATE: MO | ZIP: 63130 |
| EMAIL: mvatterott@moenvironment.org | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 2/4/2026 4:15 PM | |
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February 4, 2026

Chairman Bob Bromley
 Utilities Committee
 MO House of Representatives
 201 West Capitol Avenue
 Room 401-A
 Jefferson City MO 65101

Dear Chairman Bromley and Members of the Committee,

Missouri Coalition for the Environment is a statewide, advocacy nonprofit organization that works to empower Missourians to protect their environment and health. HB 2402 and 2816 take a mixed approach to utility-scale solar development in Missouri. While they include some provisions that retain local control of land development, they also introduce a series of restrictions, particularly related to setbacks and land-use caps, that go far beyond what is necessary to protect public health, safety, or agricultural land. Missouri can and should pursue thoughtful, evidence-based solar policy. Unfortunately, as currently written, HB 2402 and HB 2816 fall short of that goal.

The bills impose a tax of \$2,500 per megawatt of nameplate capacity, a provision that continues existing tax law and offers predictable revenue for local governments. However, this tax is layered on top of new regulatory and siting requirements that unnecessarily single out solar energy for heightened scrutiny compared with other more harmful industries.

Further regulation and setback requirements of solar are unnecessary. Solar facilities are also already subject to months-long Public Service Commission (PSC) regulatory proceedings, which examine all aspects of an energy project, including health and safety. In fact, solar power is cheaper, safer, and faster to deploy than any other form of energy available on the market today (1). Donald Trump's own EPA declared as of September 24, 2025 that "solar panels are safe during use" (2).

Generating solar power doesn't release any pollutants, does not rely on nonrenewable materials, and is essential to transitioning the country away from fossil fuels. Burning fossil fuels releases ozone, volatile organic compounds, soot, and particulate matter into the air, which cause asthma and worsen

all respiratory illnesses (3). Ameren's continuous operation of the Labadie coal plant alone is responsible for the deaths of 200 Missourians a year (4). Other major and more dangerous industries across the state are subject to less scrutiny than that being asked by this bill. For example, Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations, or CAFOs, are proven to release methane, ammonia, and hydrogen sulfide, as well as pollute water with manure, hormones, and chemicals. Hydrogen sulfide poses significant health risks, including neurological harm, dizziness, headaches, and nausea, and is part of a broader mix of air pollutants that worsen asthma outcomes for farmers and surrounding communities (5). Despite all this evidence, Class II CAFOs have no buffering requirements from any inhabited buildings (6). It is difficult to justify imposing stricter five-hundred foot setback requirements on solar, a proven, non-polluting energy source, than on land uses that pose ongoing and measurable risks to public health and the environment.

The bill also allows county commissions to opt into a program that limits solar energy to only 4% of the county's farmland. This arbitrary cap is not grounded in environmental or safety concerns and fails to account for emerging practices such as agrivoltaics, which allow solar infrastructure to coexist with crops and livestock while providing additional income stability for farmers (7). By imposing this unnecessary restriction on a completely safe energy source, the government is infringing on Missourians' fundamental right to personal property, and removes constituents' ability to do what they want with their land.

What's more, solar is popular: 57% of Missourians support transitioning the US economy to 100% renewable energy by 2050 (8). By further restricting solar energy development, the legislature will limit personal property rights on a widely supported industry that poses no serious public health risks. As such, we suggest removing the unnecessary additional regulations before considering this bill further.

Sincerely,
Melissa Vatterott, JD
Policy Director
Missouri Coalition for the Environment
mvatterott@moenvironment.org
(314) 727-0600, ext. 111

(1) Lazard Levelized Cost of Energy+. Lazard Power, Energy and Infrastructure Group, 2025. <https://www.lazard.com/media/eijnqja3/lazards-lcoeplus-june-2025.pdf>

(2) US EPA, OLEM. Solar Panel Frequent Questions. Guidance (OMB). 23 Aug. 2021, <https://www.epa.gov/hw/solar-panel-frequent-questions>.

(3) Too Hot? How to NOT Trigger Your Asthma," American Lung Association, May 2, 2024. <https://www.lung.org/blog/asthma-heat-tri>

(4) Prull, Daniel. Out of Control: The Deadly Impact of Coal Pollution, Sierra Club, February 2023, pp. 10. <https://coal.sierraclub.org/sites/nat-coal/files/Out%20of%20Control%20coal%20mortality%20report%20FINAL.pdf>

(5) "Why are CAFOs bad?" Sierra Club, Michigan Chapter. <https://www.sierraclub.org/michigan/why-are-cafos-bad#pollutants>

(6) "Animal Feeding Operation Permits and Regulations in Missouri - PUB2351" Missouri Department of Natural Resources. <https://dnr.mo.gov/document-search/animal-feeding-operation-permits-regulations-missouri-pub2351/pub2351>

(7) U.S. Department of Energy. "Agrivoltaics: Solar and Agriculture Co-Location." Energy.gov, www.energy.gov/eere/solar/agrivoltaics-solar-and-agriculture-co-location.

(8) "Climate Opinion Factsheets." Yale Program on Climate Change Communication, August 28, 2025. Accessed February 2, 2026. <https://climatecommunication.yale.edu/visualizations-data/factsheets/>.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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| WITNESS NAME | | | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION: | | | |
| WITNESS NAME: SUSAN BURNS | | PHONE NUMBER: 573-310-4655 | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MID MISSOURI LANDOWNERS ASSOCIATION | | TITLE: LEADERSHIP TEAM | |
| ADDRESS: 1948 STATE ROAD PP | | | |
| CITY: AUXVASSE | | STATE: MO | ZIP: |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: | SUBMIT DATE: 2/4/2026 12:00 AM | |
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| WITNESS NAME | | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION: | | |
| WITNESS NAME: TYLER TRAVERS | | PHONE NUMBER: |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: RENEW MISSOURI | | TITLE: |
| ADDRESS: | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: ZIP: |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: | SUBMIT DATE: 2/4/2026 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 | | | |
| CITY: JEFFERSON CITY | | STATE: MO | ZIP: 65101 |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: | SUBMIT DATE: 2/4/2026 12:00 AM | |
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