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## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



# SOLANO COUNTY

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June 29, 2022

## FLOOR ALERT

**RE: – ASSEMBLY BILL 205 (Committee on Budget) and Senate Bill 122 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review) – As amended June 26, 2022, OPPOSE**

On behalf of the Solano County Board of Supervisors, I write to express our opposition to AB 205/SB 122, the Energy Trailer Bills. These bills would allow for a shift of local authority for siting of solar, wind, and certain battery backup projects to the California Energy Commission (CEC) and would, under the auspices of a Strategic Energy Reserve, delegate to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) blanket authority to bypass local permitting, including through the Coastal Act of 1976. These facilities can have enormous impacts on our communities, even when the benefits are spread to other parts of the state.

Solano County, home to Travis Air Force Base, contains a diverse mix of agriculture, urban and delta areas – many, if not all of which could be impacted by poorly sited large solar and wind projects. AB 205/SB 122 proposes removing local jurisdiction and oversight when approving these projects, and not necessarily accounting for impacts to residents, the base, Ag, business and farming communities.

Counties work closely with energy developers to site facilities and appropriately balance the needs of the community. As such, we would support efforts to assist counties in expediting permitting but transitioning authority to the CEC and DWR is not the solution. The CEC permitting process for renewable energy and manufacturing contained in these bills misses the mark, is overly broad, usurps local control, excludes local governments from meaningful involvement in major development projects within their jurisdictions, and could result in even more litigation.

While state must improve energy reliability both at the local level and for the larger grid, many of our communities have suffered a dramatic decline in energy reliability over the last several years.

We understand that the CEC permitting process is just one component of the trailer bill, however, its impact will be sweeping and long-lasting. AB 205/SB 122 bypasses the traditional local permitting process designed to ensure a project's impacts on local communities and residents will be minimized. AB 205/SB 122 also removes all local permitting for facilities cited through the Department of Water Resources for strategic energy reserves and exempts these projects from the California Coastal Act.

AB 205/SB 122 was crafted without the input, and over the objections of, local governments that are best positioned to balance competing interests. Solano County opposes this over-reach of state permitting and urgently requests your "**No**" vote on AB 205/SB 122.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John M. Vasquez".

John M. Vasquez,  
District 4 Supervisor and Chair  
Solano County Board of Supervisors

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**CC:**

Honorable Bill Dodd, Member, California State Senate  
Honorable Tim Grayson, Member, California State Assembly  
Honorable Cecilia Aguiar-Curry, Member, California State Assembly  
Honorable Lori Wilson, Member, California State Assembly  
Solano County Board of Supervisors  
Karen Lange, Legislative Advocate