

Peter Garrett
Winslow
LD 856

My wife and I own farmland in Winslow and Benton. We realize it as valuable farmland, with hay cut and taken by a neighbor who has a small dairy herd. He says he gets the very best hay from those fields. We have no intention of selling off the land for a solar farm. However, we have invested in solar power for our several buildings. But, rather than allowing solar panels to take up valuable hayfield space, we chose solar panels mounted on trackers. Our neighbor cuts hay right around them, losing only about one car parking space of uncut hay. In other words, with solar it is possible to have one's proverbial cake and eat it. I understand that LD 856 is designed to balance renewable energy development with the conservation of natural and working lands. So please support it with a unanimous "ought to pass" and urge your colleagues to vote in favor when it comes up in the House and Senate.