

King County Department of Local Services –Permitting Division
919 SW Grady Way, Suite 300
Renton, WA 98057

ATTN: Robin Proebsting

E-mail: rproebsting@kingcounty.gov

RE: Proposed Ordinance #2023-0263 Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS)

I'm writing as a concerned citizen of King County to provide comment on the Proposed Ordinance #2023-0263 Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS).

Although councilwoman Sarah Perry has presented some amendments and additional sections to King County Code (K.C.C.) 21A, these amendments only provide additional insurance requirements for facilities over 2MW, setbacks from vegetation, and definitions for the size of accessory battery storage units and commercial storage units. We don't feel that this proposal goes far enough to protect the community.

Given the high likelihood of evacuations and shelter-in-place orders arising from fires and explosions associated with lithium BESS, there's a dire need to include additional provisions in the Ordinance. Specifically, the current proposal does not adequately address safety setbacks from critical structures and facilities. It's imperative that we enforce a minimum distance of 1/2 a mile from schools and hospitals for BESS installations larger than 2mW. This should be applicable in all "R" zones (from R-1 through R-48) and all "RA" zones (from RA-2.5 through RA-10).

The safety of our communities and the well-being of our environment hinge on these necessary revisions. We urge you to include setbacks from schools and hospitals located in rural and residential areas. I hope you'll give this matter the urgent attention it deserves.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,