

1 H.710

2 Senator Watson moves that the report of the Committee on Natural
3 Resources and Energy be amended by inserting a new section to be Sec. 2a to
4 read as follows:

5 Sec. 2a. PRIMARY AGRICULTURAL SOILS AND SOLAR REPORT

6 (a) On or before January 15, 2027, the Commissioner of Public Service,
7 after consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets, shall
8 report back on the following questions:

9 (1) Over the last five years, how many acres of primary agricultural soils
10 have been developed for any purpose? What share of this development is
11 attributable to solar energy generation projects?

12 (2) How many acres of primary agricultural soils used for solar energy
13 generation development were directly impacted by the project, as opposed to
14 the acreage that is within the project's area of disturbance?

15 (3) How many acres of primary agricultural soils developed for solar
16 energy generation were in active agricultural use immediately before
17 development, and what was the agricultural usage?

18 (4) How many acres of primary agricultural soils developed for solar
19 energy generation projects remain owned by farmers?

20 (5) How many acres of trees have been cleared for solar energy
21 generation projects in this time frame, broken down by forest type?

1 (b) The Commissioner shall include in the report recommendations on how
2 to encourage the siting of solar energy generation on land that has already been
3 disturbed, including rooftops and parking lots, and potential financial
4 structures that would make solar energy generation on those sites more
5 financially feasible.

6 (c) The report shall be submitted to the House Committees on Agriculture,
7 Food Resiliency, and Forestry and on Energy and Digital Infrastructure and the
8 Senate Committees on Agriculture and on Natural Resources and Energy.