

I am submitting these comments as a fourth generation farmer who is currently considering supplementing my farm income with leasing some property for a solar installation. Family farms have historically been had low profit margin with high risk. Being able to supplement my farm income with a solar lease could provide the income needed to provide financial stability to continue and to potentially grow my small family farm while allowing my continued use of the lease land.

It seems confusing to me to have different minimum height requirements whether the systems are fixed tilt or tracking. I need between 8 to 10 feet of clearance from the lowest panel point depending on my agricultural use of the area. For grazing small animals and/or using small tractors and implements for growing crops, 8' clearance might be ok. For grazing larger animals and/or using larger tractors and implements, 10' clearance or more might be required. There should be some flexibility within the minimum height requirement section for meeting the farmers' current and future operational needs.

The requirements on sunlight reduction on every square foot of land directly under or behind the panel are too restrictive. It may be beneficial to farmers to be able to have a small part of the system with panels close together to create shelter for the grazing animals or for storing implements within the area, or they will have to build a separate shelter. There should be some flexibility within the minimum spacing distance and maximum sunlight reduction sections for meeting the farmers' current and future operational needs.

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Sent via my Samsung Galaxy, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone