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**From:** Mike Leonard [mike@northquabbinforestry.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 29, 2015 6:45 PM  
**To:** Regreform, DOER (ENE)  
**Subject:** Stop the destruction of forests & fields by made in China solar "farms"  
**Attachments:** 1.jpg; 2.jpg; 3.jpg; Power Down Wind & Solar - My Turn.pdf

To DOER:

Fig. 1: This made in China solar "farm" destroyed a beautiful emerging white pine, pitch pine, hardwood forest that could have been managed as a rare pine barren. In addition, it was a violation of the Rivers Protection Act since it was within the 200 foot buffer. It was also a violation of the Natural Heritage endangered species law as rare turtle and salamander habitat was destroyed. Finally it was a violation of the zoning laws as this industrial project was built in an area that is zoned residential greatly devaluing the working class houses in the area. The developer must have paid off the right people to get this atrocity built!

Fig.2 Upper Photo: The once beautiful gateway to the 1,000 acre Bearsden destroyed by another made in China solar "farm". It was a beautiful pasture that could have been a great fruit orchard. A beautiful mature white pine, oak forest stand was destroyed to make way for this made in China solar "farm" along Rt.122 in Orange.

Fig.2 Lower Photo: A beautiful mature white pine, oak forest stand was destroyed as well as some fine agricultural land to put in yet another useless made in China solar "farm". It was put in along a scenic highway destroying a once beautiful view. In addition, it was a violation of the zoning laws as it was put in an area that was zoned agricultural. The land was also enrolled in the Ch.61A farm tax law and should have been preserved as farmland.

Fig.3: This solar "farm" in Orange, MA is completely buried in snow and generating no power! It was buried in snow for two months last winter! What good is it?!

Attachment 4: My article in the Greenfield Recorder on the wind and solar scams.

The totally incompetent state is planning on subsidizing the development of 1600 MW of made in China solar energy projects which will cost at least \$10 billion and provide a paltry 1% of our energy at best. Our electric bills will at least double while we'll have a less reliable grid and all of these solar "farms" will be scrapped within 10 - 20 years. Forests and farmland are being destroyed and property values have declined. Why are industrial projects being put in areas that are zoned residential and agricultural?! There are 2 ways citizens are getting ripped off. The first is that the construction of these industrial projects are subsidized by our ratepayer and taxpayer dollars. The second way is that the power produced is sold at a very high rate (more than four times as much!) and this causes our electric bill to go up.

In contrast, last year in my forestry business, I marked 550 acres of forest for improvement cuttings. These thinnings will improve the future timber value and property value of my landowners' woodlots. By cutting the low value junk timber, the higher quality trees will grow at a faster rate. The thinnings from those woodlots will produce 1 million board feet of sawlogs, about 3,000 cords of firewood, and 40,000 tons of biomass. That's enough timber to build at least 80 houses, heat 600 homes for a year, and to produce 4 MW of power. That is more power than all of the solar "farms" combined in the North Quabbin! And those solar "farms" cost taxpayers and ratepayers at least \$40 million!!! But I received no funds from government and look at what I produced and I could have done a lot more if the state would enforce our existing forestry laws! I also helped to create dozens of jobs for loggers, truck drivers, mechanics, mill workers, etc. right on up the production chain. A simple cost/benefit analysis would have shown that investing OUR money in those made in China solar "farms" was a very bad deal. But just think if we had a pro-forestry administration, we could not only light up

the entire North Quabbin region with homegrown energy, we could heat all the homes in this area with local wood while providing enough building materials for all kinds of construction projects! We could have full employment in this area!

Mike Leonard, Consulting Forester

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