

From: [Betsy](#)
To: [SitingBoard Filing \(DPU\)](#)
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To the Sitting Board:

I am a supporter of efforts to achieve renewable energy goals but I also am deeply concerned that solar and other renewables not be placed in extreme detriment to natural areas when obvious other choices make not only more sense but achieve the goals without disruption to rural environments. We are the custodians of our world and that brings responsibility. The bill that takes away local control is wrong.

I have a point of my own that shows a clear example of "good" solar placement. In Springfield there is a BIG Y headquarters and the roof on their parking lots is basically a whole solar field. All over the state are large areas such as parking lots and roof tops that ALREADY are clear and absorb and waste solar energy. USE THOSE FIRST.

Below is well known quote and list:

Massachusetts has ample sites for solar to reach the state's greenhouse gas emission reduction goals without further sacrifices of natural and working lands. A survey by the Massachusetts Division of Energy Resources (DOER) found that over 85% of residents believe that the state should strive to **site** solar on rooftops, parking lots, landfills, and other developed lands, rather than continuing to clear forests and convert productive farmland. We can meet our energy needs without damaging our wetlands, forests, and other natural areas.

1. Prioritize already disturbed land and the built environment. Siting regulations should avoid natural landscapes, wildlands or working lands, wetlands and forests, in favor of sites such as large rooftops, south-facing structures, parking lots, and brown fields.
2. Minimize distribution costs, reduce wasted heat loss and unnecessary infrastructure. Electric power generation, storage, and usage should be close to population centers and industrial end-users, not in lightly populated, rural areas.
3. Create interconnection rules that support smaller, low-impact solar projects located close to electric loads. Allow distributed and low-impact ground-mount projects in the interconnection queue to connect first.
4. In population centers, electric power generation, storage, and usage should be as close together as feasible.
5. Energy efficiency, climate resiliency, and conservation should be the guiding principles for both site selection and energy development – not profit maximization.

Thank you for listening.

Betsy Cook