

From: [Enviro Show](#)
To: [SitingBoard Filing \(DPU\)](#)
Subject: Testimony Standard Conditions Straw Proposal by Staff
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I'm Don Ogden, co-founder of The Enviro Show broadcasting from Western Massachusetts on three radio stations and on the internet. I am very concerned with the text in part (ii), section 3, page 2 of the Straw Proposal which states: "The 2024 Climate Act modified the Siting Board's mandate to include additional factors

to review and balance. Specifically, the Siting Board shall consider whether the energy facility will: ...(ii) ensure that large clean energy infrastructure facilities, small clean energy infrastructure facilities, facilities and oil facilities avoid or minimize or, if impacts cannot be avoided or minimized, mitigate environmental impacts and negative health impacts to the extent practicable;..."

The wording on this critical aspect of energy installations is so vague, inconclusive and subject to manipulation as to be almost laughable. The entire section should be stripped from the document and replaced with something resembling honesty. Wording that, for instance prohibits deforestation for solar and battery installations on any size of forested land. There is no mitigation for destroying natural carbon capturing forests and allowing all the stored carbon to reenter the atmosphere. There is no minimization for such unnecessary destruction which literally endangers the public and future generations.

As we have been saying and testifying for years now, forests and trees are some of the few natural solutions available to us. They capture CO2 and other emissions daily, year after year after year for free and store the carbon safely away for the life of the forest. Why on Earth, in the midst of the Climate Crisis, would anyone want to destroy trees and forests? Why would anyone want to make future generations' world less livable?

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