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Dear members of the Sitng Board,

My name is Ellen Anderson and I live in Petersham Massachusetts, where I am the chairman of the board of Assessors. This letter represents my personal opinion and does not necessarily represent anyone else in my town. I was present at the last Siting board session in early May and part of the demonstration that was outside in the rain.

I do thank you members of the siding board to volunteer to try to reach some consensus about our current solar siting problems. I do hope that we can widen the scope of the discussion.

I was an enthusiastic supporter of solar energy when it seemed to be part of an energy reduction project. It has morphed into a huge industrial project that I think is both undesirable and unachievable. I stare horrified at the dystopian future implied by current energy policy in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. We should all understand that we can't have infinite growth on a finite planet. Yet growth is the goal of energy policy in Massachusetts. Not only are we clearly going to sacrifice huge land areas but we are now talking about building nuclear facilities so that data centers can use gargantuan amounts of electricity to promote AI and cloud computing that, frankly, I am not sure is at all what people need. To me this looks like a crazy rejection of environmentalism, with its emphasis on cleansing our air, water, soil and food, in favor of the groundless and impossible objective of eliminating CO2. You must know that emissions that cause climate change are only one of only nine planetary boundaries that are being crossed. Forests are so important to protect all of nature. The state has done such good work on Municipal Vulnerability analysis. We need to work together to rewild and regrow not tear down, extract and destroy. I would not put one industrial energy facility in the woods and as for batteries? They are a hazard to everyone and this just isn't going to work!! We need a Plan B and fast.

Let's take a good look at the language and words that we use to present solar and wind as intrinsically positive. Things like Net Zero and Green Energy and Renewables. I think there is a lot of misunderstanding there.

Thanks again Ellen