



**Franklin Regional
Council of Governments**

May 27, 2025

RE: Clean Energy Siting and Permitting Processes – Stakeholder Comments

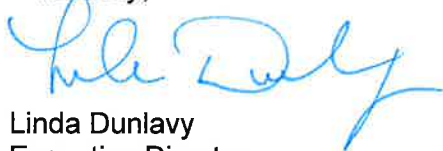
Dear Siting Board,

As the Executive Director of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG), I am providing these comments in response to the Climate Act Stakeholder Sessions held earlier this Spring. The FRCOG serves as the regional planning agency and the regional and municipal services organization for the twenty-six municipalities of Franklin County. In our county, 25 of our 26 member municipalities are small, rural towns and only 6 of our towns have professional planners.

We are a region that recognizes the dire importance of clean energy; that values the delicate balance between development and preserving our natural environment; and that understands the challenges faced by our local governments with limited capacity and resources, and we applaud the state's goal to ensure that all communities share the responsibility of clean energy siting.

We believe the state's Regional Planning Agencies can be strong partners as you develop siting procedures that balance the many needs across the state. For example, the FRCOG can assist with connecting the state's policymakers with rural, small town officials and residents and ensure that the regulations and guidance being developed meets the needs of all communities. We strongly encourage EEA to work with the Massachusetts Association of Regional Planning Agencies (MARPA), the Rural Policy Advisory Commission (RPAC), and other groups that coordinate the local officials of communities statewide, such as the Coalition for Local Public Health as you develop siting and permitting procedures.

Sincerely,



Linda Dunlavy
Executive Director