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To: [SitingBoard Filing \(DPU\)](#)
Subject: Stakeholder Comments
Date: Monday, May 26, 2025 12:51:01 PM

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To the Energy Facilities Siting Board,

My name is Gina Stabilo. I live in Hampden, Massachusetts with my family and have for almost twenty years now. We are a small, rural community of approximately 5,000 people. Our town, like so many across the Commonwealth, has been inundated with commercial scale solar and battery energy storage projects over the last decade. Hampden currently has approximately 500+ acres taken up by these sites. We've learned quite a bit during these developments, especially how they can ultimately impact the lands and people around them.

With this in mind, please accept my comments relating to energy siting regulations and guidelines that are in development:

1) "Small" energy projects and all ESS battery systems shall only be allowed on the built or disturbed environment.

2) The following areas shall be excluded from large and small energy generation and transmission projects:

- Article 97 protected open space (note: If Article 97 land is categorized as an ineligible area, an exception for solar canopies - e.g., solar over a DCR beach parking lot- shall be considered.)
- Wetland resource areas (310 CMR 10.04) and with setbacks of 1,000 feet to identified wetlands resources.
- Properties included in the State Register (950 CMR 71.03), except as authorized by regulatory bodies
- BioMap 2 Critical Natural Landscape, Core Habitat, Important Habitat, or Priority Habitat
- Outstanding Resource Waters, wetlands or rivers
- Flood plains or flood prone areas
- On land that provides public drinking water
- On prime farmland (as defined by the state)

3) Ground-mounted solar projects shall not be allowed on newly deforested land, defined as cleared less than 5 years ago.

4) Marginal farmland shall be minimally impacted with no decrease in agricultural productivity.

5) Language should be included that ensures no negative impacts on:

- Biodiversity including plants and animals listed under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act
- Protected open space
- Native American cultural areas as determined by Massachusetts' Indigenous people

6) Power of discretion and authority shall be provided to the towns that allows for:

- Locally generated enforceable safety standards for battery storage
- Town-specific capacity and siting goals, with local control of siting
- Authority for municipalities to reject any proposal for minimization and/or mitigation that are deemed a threat to the towns' health safety and welfare, and natural and cultural resource protections, as determined by local boards and commissions.

No one knows these towns like the people who live in them. Municipalities *need* the ability to continue to protect our precious forests, waterways, wetlands, and environmental resources for the benefit of residents and wildlife. There is a way to reach the Commonwealth's energy goals, while also protecting the place we call home.

Sincerely yours,

Gina Stabilo

Gina Stabilo

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