

From: [Glenn Stockton](#)
To: [SitingBoard Filing \(DPU\)](#)
Subject: Stakeholder comments
Date: Sunday, May 18, 2025 3:45:56 PM

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To the Energy Facilities Siting Board,

I write to you as someone with solar panels on my house, an electric vehicle in my driveway and a heat pump being installed next week to replace my gas furnace. Please accept my comments on the energy siting regulations and guidelines with the knowledge that I am very much in favor of renewable energy sources.

The MA Audubon/Harvest Forest Study (2023) stated that Massachusetts could achieve its goal by using the current built environment and so would not need to resort to clear cutting forest land.

The Healey Administration Carbon Forestry Committee report concluded that we should not be converting forested land for energy production. "Reduce unnecessary forest land conversion via collaboration across state agencies and complementary policies, infrastructure investments, and other actions (e.g., solar facilities, powerlines, highways, housing, or other development).... Forest conversion on any given acre results in more carbon loss than harvesting on average, is more permanent, and also results in the loss of all other forest benefits." (page 48)

Owners of forest land should not be incentivized to install solar in lieu of maintaining the forest. Based on the two previously mentioned reports, solar installation incentives should target the existing built environment and should not degrade the remaining natural, fragile, sensitive, culturally significant or physically sustaining (such as farmland or potable watershed) environment of the state.

The same reasoning should apply to the placement of battery systems which are a substantial environmental hazard in the event of a fire.

Please listen to the local communities. These decisions, once made, are not easily undone and not everything can be reduced to economic efficiency.

Thank you,
Glenn Stockton

