

From: [Jane Urban](#)
To: [SitingBoard Filing \(DPU\)](#)
Subject: Energy Siting Stakeholder comments
Date: Thursday, April 24, 2025 3:28:25 PM

Comments from a Shutesbury, MA resident:

I know there is a huge need for alternatives to fossil fuel and that solar energy is a good prospect. However, it just does not make sense to indiscriminately destroy forests and ecosystems in order to build solar or any alternative energy facilities—it is not an equal trade-off nor a long-term sustainable solution. If such a facility were to be built in my small, rural community, I would certainly hope that it would be done in the least destructive and most creative way possible, with the health and well-being of my neighbors and the local environment taken into account and not put at risk. But if it were to happen without any input from our town officials, without any regard to our bylaws that we have created to protect our environment, then I wouldn't feel very safe or supportive.

I also know that historically when communities have voiced objections, it's often to keep "others" out and to be unwelcoming to any changes in the status quo. But this is a very different situation. My community is not necessarily against any and all types of solar, we just don't want to be shut out of the discussion and shut down from any decision-making. If the Commonwealth wants to meet its climate goals, please allow communities to participate, please work with communities by giving us assistance and knowledge in how best to proceed with a facility while still protecting our local forests and water and wildlife. We are the ones who will have to live with what gets built, we are the ones who can and will take care of it when problems arise, we are the ones who will suffer the consequences of anything built for profit over safety.

Please let all communities throughout the Commonwealth have a say in how and where and when something gets built, whether it's in a rural community, an urban neighborhood or a suburban town. We all deserve to have our concerns heard and accounted for. We can and will come together to ensure that everyone gets to live in a safe and healthy environment—and to make sure that everyone has a voice.

Thank you,
Jane Urban

