

From: [Louise Amyot](#)
To: [SitingBoard Filing \(DPU\)](#)
Subject: Siting Energy Projects
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To the Energy Facilities Siting Board,

Because I am, and have been for many years, concerned about the condition of our environment and climate change, I am writing today to share my concerns with you. Please accept my comments relating to energy siting regulations and guidelines that are in development:

1) Given the importance of forested land in absorbing carbon dioxide and generating oxygen, as well as in mitigating heat, protecting soil and keeping water clean, any "small" energy projects and all ESS battery systems shall only be allowed on the built or disturbed environment.

2) It seems to me to be obvious that 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) With the effects of climate change stressing farmland everywhere, it is imperative that we do everything we can to protect it all. Thus, marginal farmland shall be minimally impacted with no decrease in agricultural productivity.

4) 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

5) Because of the grave danger of fires from lithium batteries, as well as the urgency of having battery storage units built in areas that are easily accessible to fire departments, 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.

Sincerely yours,

Louise Amyot, registered voter and dedicated poll worker,

