

From: [Mary Lou Splain](#)
To: [SitingBoard Filing \(DPU\)](#)
Subject: Climate Law of 2024
Date: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 1:40:38 PM

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To the Siting Board,

I am a big proponent of solar energy but am concerned about the locations of some of the solar projects. I believe that with new criteria, Massachusetts can have both renewable energy and preserve our forests, farms, and other wildlife rich landscapes. Please consider the following when establishing new criteria.

- Siting guidelines and criteria must be strong enough to avoid development of clean energy projects on our highest-value, irreplaceable natural and working lands entirely.
- Developers should be encouraged to prioritize new solar projects on rooftops, commercial buildings, parking lots, and landfills. Ground-mounted solar projects should be steered to already-developed parcels and lower-impact sites over sites with high natural resource values.
- Projects with significant footprints on natural landscapes must be changeable during the design and pre-approval phase to avoid and minimize impacts to nature and ecosystem functions.
- For project impacts that do affect natural carbon storage, wildlife habitat, and other ecosystem functions (like drinking water protection), energy developers must be required to directly compensate the public for any losses.
- Analyses on cumulative impacts of energy infrastructure should inform criteria to help steer further energy development away from communities that have borne a disproportionate burden from these projects.
- Cities and towns, especially those with limited resources, must have sufficient technical and financial support to site and permit projects.

Thank you,

Mary Lou Splain

