

From: [Melanie Abrams](#)
To: [SitingBoard Filing \(DPU\)](#)
Subject: Responsible and sustainable clean energy siting
Date: Sunday, May 4, 2025 9:21:48 AM

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Dear Siting Board,

I'm writing to submit public comment for the state's proposal on clean energy siting, re the 2024 Act Promoting a Clean Energy Grid, Advancing Equity, and Protecting Ratepayers.

It is crucial for the state to update the siting guidelines to **protect forest, wetlands, waterways, and farmland** while continuing to **accelerate solar/battery development**.


Current projects have been developed without limitations or guardrails on locations, but for this to be a sustainable and just transition, we must **develop in responsible areas**, empower communities, and include strong impact analyses of potential harms.

Our natural spaces and forests are irreplaceable, so we should encourage developers to prioritize **new solar on rooftops, commercial buildings, parking-lots, and landfills**. When ground-mounted, they should be steered to already-developed land parcels, and to choose low-impact sites.

If we clear forested areas to install solar, we are not developing sustainably; even if the net GHG appears to be an emission reduction, the habitat loss and potential ecosystem collapse are a permanent loss to the public. We must have guidelines that require projects with significant effect on nature to be **changeable** during the design/pre-approval phase to minimize and mitigate these impacts, and energy developers must be required to **compensate** the public for such losses that are deemed acceptable.

We need to protect forests, farmlands, wetlands, and waterways, while accelerating solar and battery development in responsible areas, empowering communities, and including strong impact analyses of potential harm. We must give cities and towns sufficient technical and financial support to site/permit projects, and provide analyses on cumulative impacts of the energy infrastructure to prevent communities which have borne a disproportionate burden from bearing more unjustly.

Sincerely,
Melanie Abrams

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