

From: [Michael Pill](#)
To: [SitingBoard Filing \(DPU\)](#)
Subject: Stakeholder Comment: You are being targeted by a lobbying campaign by opponents of solar power
Date: Sunday, May 18, 2025 12:23:29 PM
Attachments: [inline.0 part](#)

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To Energy Facilities Siting Board

Wanted to be sure you know you are being targeted by opponents of solar power. This organization is not known for accuracy. I respectfully submit the operative effect of their proposed list of exclusions for siting solar projects demonstrates that their goal is to block such projects where ever they can.

Please do not be misled. If humanity is to survive on this planet we must move away from fossil fuel toward renewable sources of electricity, which is the key to modern life. Please continue your good work to support development of solar electric power in Massachusetts.

Michael Pill, Esq.
Green Miles Lipton, LLP

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----- Forwarded Message -----

Begin forwarded message:

From: Responsible Solar MA <responsiblesolarma@pb06.wixemails.com>
Date: May 18, 2025 at 11:50:11 AM EDT
To: rr22rr44@gmail.com
Subject: Act Now: Solar Siting Stakeholder Comments
Reply-To: responsiblesolarma@gmail.com

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Greetings from Responsible Solar MA,

The following is a sample letter for you to personalize and send to the Energy Facilities Siting Board in response to the recent [hearings for solar and battery siting](#). These rules will pretty

much dictate how solar, wind and battery storage projects can get sited.

Comments are due May 27th.

You may send the letter as is or, preferably, use additional information sources below to customize your letter. Either way, please send your comments to EFSB as soon as possible.

Send to: sitingboard.filing@mass.gov.

Subject Line: Stakeholder comments

To the Energy Facilities Siting Board,

Please accept my comments relating to energy siting regulations and guidelines that are in development:

1) "Small" energy projects and all ESS battery systems shall only be allowed on the built or disturbed environment.

2) 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) Ground-mounted solar projects shall not be allowed on newly deforested land, defined as cleared less than 5 years ago.

4) Marginal farmland shall be minimally impacted with no decrease in agricultural productivity.

5) 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

6) 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,
[Your Name]
[Your Town]

To personalize these comments and for further reading, please see:

1) The MA Audubon/Harvest Forest Study (2023) that says we can get the required solar buildout on the built environment. Find the report [on our](#)

[website](#).

2) The [Healey Administration Carbon Forestry Committee](#) report that concludes 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)

3)The Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EEA)(plus associated agencies) [siting report](#) that includes suggestions for what lands should be avoided for the energy build out.

Please Note: Proposed detailed standards for siting for "small" projects, meaning all solar, onshore wind, geothermal and anaerobic digesting, will be coming at the end of the summer/early fall. Hearings will be held across the state for us to comment. We all need to ask EEA to have a hearing near you. More to come on that.

Regards,
Jill Buchanan, Shutesbury
Janet Sinclair, Shelburne Falls
Meg Sheehan, Plymouth

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