

From: [Michael Pill](#)
To: [SitingBoard Filing \(DPU\)](#)
Subject: Fw: [ECricket] Comments Due May 27th to Protect Shutesbury Forests
Date: Saturday, May 24, 2025 4:47:49 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Wanted you to see this additional effort by an anti-solar lobbying group. Please do not be dissuaded from promoting increased reliance on renewable energy.

Michael Pill, Esq.
Green Miles Lipton, LLP



www.greenmiles.com

NOTE:

Information in this email and any attachments is privileged and confidential. If the reader is not the intended recipient, dissemination or distribution of this communication is prohibited. If you received this communication in error, please notify this office immediately. Upon request, all costs will be reimbursed to you. Thank you for your assistance. No Attorney-Client relationship can be created by this email. Nothing in this email or any attachment is intended to form a contract.

Begin forwarded message:

From: Smart Solar Shutesbury <smartsolarshutesbury@googlegroups.com>
Date: May 24, 2025 at 11:40:57 AM EDT
To: Smart Solar Shutesbury <smartsolarshutesbury@googlegroups.com>
Subject: **Comments Due May 27th to Protect Shutesbury Forests**
Reply-To: smartsolarshutesbury+managers@googlegroups.com

Dear Smart Solar Allies,

If you haven't already personalized and sent your letter to the Energy Facilities Siting Board, please do so now!

Comments are due May 27th.

Send the following letter as is or, preferably, use additional information sources below to customize your letter.

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 the Responsible Solar MA 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.

In Solidarity,
Smart Solar Shutesbury

--

Smartsolarshutesbury.org

You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "Smart Solar Shutesbury" group.

To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to smartsolarshutesbury+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com.

To view this discussion visit

<https://groups.google.com/d/msgid/smartsolarshutesbury/3410e8dd-f002-4971-9e24->

22e38ec0fd59n%40googlegroups.com.

Groups.io Links:

You receive all messages sent to this group.

[View/Reply Online \(#46796\)](#) | [Reply to Sender](#) | [Reply to Group](#) | [Mute This Topic](#) | [New Topic](#)
[Your Subscription](#) | [Contact Group Owner](#) | [Unsubscribe](#) [mpill@verizon.net]