From:	Elizabeth Dickinson
To:	SMART, DOER (ENE)
Cc:	Lynn
Subject:	400 MW review Public Comments
Date:	Sunday, September 15, 2019 3:06:27 PM

Re: Solar siting in Massachusetts

While we support some efforts to develop alternative energy sources to reduce the effects of carbon emissions, we wish to express our concerns about this state's promotion of Large Scale Solar Photovoltaic Systems in Massachusetts, especially in Central and Western Massachusetts, where sensitive water and forest resources are being compromised. Legislation, including the SMART program, does not limit or address some environmental consequences of such programs. ***In our efforts to rescue the world from climate change, we may destroy the "at risk" environment we so desperately want to save from the effects of carbon emissions.***

"The importance of forests cannot be underestimated. We depend on forests for our survival, from the air we breathe to the wood we use. Besides providing habitats for animals and livelihoods for humans, ***forests*** *also offer watershed protection, prevent soil erosion and mitigate climate change. Without* ***forests****, Earth would be uninhabitable.* ***Forests*** *provide water storage, dictate weather patterns and, critically, act as the planet's lungs by absorbing carbon dioxide and releasing oxygen into the atmosphere through photosynthesis." (World Wildlife Fund)*

The latest proposal in Wales, MA has access via a 14 to 16 foot wide dead end street. There are four culvert/brook crossings. The proposed site is a pristine area: a watershed with swamps, wetlands, vernal pools, natural springs, an identified coldwater fishery (Lamphier Brook), woodlands, and includes Critical Areas as defined in MA law. There is wildlife including bears, deer, raccoons, fisher cats, many bird varieties, bats, turtles and brook trout. It should be prohibited that this forest land be cut down for an industrial venture in a tiny town (Wales) that has no expertise or resources to protect the environment.

We do not want industrial scale solar fields cutting down our forests or destroying farmland with the money going to big corporations from far away. Solar generation on rooftops, brownfields, capped landfills, abandoned industrial or sand/gravel pits, and parking lots are far more appropriate sites.

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