From:	Miriam
To:	SMART, DOER (ENE)
Subject:	solar siting is important
Date:	Friday, September 27, 2019 3:03:49 PM

I understand you are working on issues in your SMART program to allow the public to have input into where solar energy is sited. This is a really important issue, as some irresponsible industrial sized solar companies are cutting down forests to site their solar energy systems improperly.

My husband and I have very effective PV solar panels and hot water panels on our roof, where they belong. We will not cut down trees for the purpose of having a solar system. Solar is an excellent energy source, if it is placed on roofs or already cleared spaces, such as on the sides of roads, over parking spaces and areas cleared for other purposes. .It defeats the entire purpose of clean energy if trees and forests are cut down for it. Trees and forest sequester large amounts of carbon each year, and their sequestering ability increases each year as the trees age. Our world has been losing its forests immensely during this industrialized era for so many reasons. We need to keep all of our forests intact and grow new forests to bring back the life, diversity and biomes that have been lost due to industrialization. Responsible solar companies DO NOT cut down forests for solar projects. Any company that lobbies to allow the cutting of any forest is not a responsible company. We have used your SMART program for many things and hope it grows and continues to help people tighten their living and work spaces, build solar/wind/small hydro as well as electrify their heat with air source heat pumps.
Biomass is not a renewable energy in any true sense of the word, and logging for any reason is unnecessary and damaging to our environment and climate. We need changes to be made now and we hope you will SMARTen up your programs and improve them and grow them to especially include the more impoverished communities. . Thank you,

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