From:	Cynthia Lawton-Singer
To:	SMART, DOER (ENE)
Cc:	Senator Adam Hinds
Subject:	comments on SMART Program
Date:	Friday, September 27, 2019 10:54:29 AM

Dear Commissioners,

As a homeowner who has participated in the solar program in Massachusetts, I believe I have experience which could be noted to make our solar program live up to the stated goals of the SMART Program to make Massachusetts' solar program be one of the best in the country.

1. Make this a truly State Program geared towards meeting the goals of the State (ie. the citizens) to transition away from fossil fuels QUICKLY and intelligently. That means NOT making the electric companies' profits or convenience a primary concern. Ideally we will come out of this transition with a LESS centrally controlled grid and more local power systems.

The experience I had with Eversource putting in a solar PV system with a storage battery was difficult and greatly prolonged by Eversource. We missed the entire summer of generation after our system was installed and ready to go by May. Our battery can ONLY be used for emergencies. We cannot draw on it at night or on cloudy days. That is all per Eversource. The State should ENCOURAGE storage through the program and build storage on a home-scale into its solutions for electrical generation. In the future, electric cars will be storing power in their batteries and that will be part of the electric system as well. Storage of renewables is Key to their reliability which is key to a successful transition away from fossil fuels and bioenergy like wood-burning which is NOT carbon-neutral!!

2. Solar arrays should not be located on land that is currently forested! Cutting forests for the production of solar electricity is completely counter-productive to the goal of carbon reduction and carbon storage!! Under NO circumstances should forested land be clear-cut to put in large solar arrays. This should be DISCOURAGED and by not allowing. Instead, solar arrays placed over large parking areas that currently bake in the sun is a much more suitable solution (and would improve the experience for the public).

3. Real resources need to be invested in bringing renewable energy to moderate income communities. I see nothing in this current program to address the environmental and economic justice issues currently present in renewable energy programs. When electricity was originally brought to the rural areas, profitability for the electric utilities was NOT the consideration. Rural electrification was NEEDED to move our whole country forward. It was a necessity and the government underwrote it because it was a necessity. Similarly, IF we want our children to have a livable world, transitioning EVERYONE away from fossil fuels is a necessity and we need to do it IMMEDIATELY. This has been debated far too long and now we now have little more than a decade to MAKE THIS HAPPEN. We are talking the end of civilization and extinction of people if we do not take swift and decisive action. Listen to the scientists. I have a seventeen year old daughter and I want her and her peers not to go hungry because we can no longer grow food due to unpredictable and extreme weather. Weather extremes being driven by our use of fossil fuels and poorly thought through resource usage.

Thank you for considering my thoughts and taking actions that will benefit current and future generations.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Lawton-Singer