From: Ann Jochnick
To: SMART, DOER (ENE)
Subject: 400 MW Review Public Comments
Date: Friday, September 27, 2019 4:21:52 PM

Ann Jochnick
9A Lakeview Street
Arlington, MA 02476

September 27, 2019

Dear Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources,

Please accept these comments on the Department of Energy Resources' (DOER) review of the SMART solar program.

I am concerned that the current program has not adequately protected our forests. We need our forests both to help mitigate climate change and for important wildlife habitat, including wildlife corridors, among many other benefits. Science tells us that mature trees sequester more carbon than younger trees. Science also tells us that the one major intact forest corridor in New England runs up through Western Massachusetts, precisely the area where "Big Solar" has been devastating our irreplaceable forestlands.

Please adopt truly strong SMART program requirements that avoid forest clearing for solar. We need solar AND we need truly smart siting of solar energy.

DOER should adopt siting criteria and incentives/disincentives for all solar development that directs this renewable energy source only to already developed land—that is, brownfields, parking lots, landfills, sides of highways, etc. — and that takes into consideration wetlands, intact forests, core habitat, and threatened species.

Please adopt rules that are actually effective in protecting our forests and siting solar on already "compromised " land.

Thank you.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Ann Jochnick