From: Alison Wight
To: SMART, DOER (ENE)
Subject: 400 MW Review Public Comments
Date: Friday, September 27, 2019 1:42:58 PM

DOER,

As a resident of Wendell, Massachusetts for the past thirty years, I am deeply alarmed and outraged by the impending devastation that the numerous proposed industrial solar installations will have on our small, rural, wooded town of 900 people.

At a recent Planning Board meeting to review one such installation, our townsfolk spoke with passion against the solar arrays and instead in favor of preserving the rural, forested and historic character of our beloved town. The sentiment was unanimous amongst the 50+ attendees at the meeting. At the end of that meeting, the lawyer for the solar company basically said that they don't really care what we want for our town that they can and will do it anyway.

Our Planning Board has been inundated by industrial solar applications and they are overwhelmed by the demands that each application requires of them as well as the pressure being put on them by the solar corporations that are pushing their agenda hard out here in the rural hilltowns of Western Mass. It is sickening to me that some solar companies are suing the Planning Boards of small towns for not issuing special permits for their industrial installations. Corporate greed and domination is running amok here and it needs to be called out as such.

I am a proponent of solar as I understand that solar is an important component of weaning ourselves from our dependence on fossil fuels. Further, I understand the urgency to put more sustainable energy production into place in our Commonwealth. But I cannot emphasize enough that the key to creating a win-win for all involved is how and where the installations are to be sited. It is imperative that undisturbed prime land such as farmland and woodland be preserved. Please incentivize the solar companies to site these installations on parking lots and rooftops of big box stores and any other land that has already been disturbed. Equally important, please put disincentives in place for siting these installations on farmland or wooded lots. Once all the disturbed land in Massachusetts is covered with solar arrays, then and only then, should we discuss the need for sacrificing prime undisturbed land for additional solar arrays.

You have the ability to protect our precious environment both from the damage of fossil fuels as well as from the sprawling patchwork of solar arrays that destroys habitats, removes acres of much-needed trees, and makes barren our precious farmlands. Please use your power wisely and with integrity. Please don't let the solar companies pressure you into sacrificing the beauty and sanctity of what is left of our undisturbed natural land.

Thank you for your consideration,
Alison Elise Wight
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