From:	Judith Gitelson
To:	SMART, DOER (ENE)
Subject:	400 MW Review Public Comments
Date:	Saturday, September 21, 2019 8:32:39 PM

I am writing in support of Jane Winn (Berkshire Environmental Team)'s input at the DOER hearing in Lenox. Jane asked that there be a prohibition against using greenfields for the State solar program.and noted that our forest lands are very important to many of us.

The forest lands are also very important in the critical battle against climate change. Forests, as you are probably aware, are important "carbon sinks". sequestering carbon from the atmosphere.

Walter Jehne, a respected Australian soil microbiologist, gave a talk in August in which he stated that storms, floods, droughts and wildfires that we associate with climate change are hydrological effects caused by severe imbalance in our water cycles. This imbalance, according to Jehne, is caused by centuries of poor land management, including deforestation.

Use of agricultural land for solar also seems to me to be an example of "poor land use".This is especially true if, as I learned at the meeting today, there have probably been no studies done yet about whether solar equipment can leach toxins into cropland.

I am very much in favor of solar that is appropriately sited.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Judy Gitelson