From: amtaylor@laposte.net
To: SMART, DOER (ENE)
Subject: Public Comment on the SMART incentive program
Date: Wednesday, September 25, 2019 2:06:30 PM

Ladies, Gentlemen of the Department of Energy Resources:
By encouraging the construction of solar arrays, the SMART program has done important work, however, it is doing harm by rewarding big companies, sometimes from far away, for the construction of large arrays in the wrong places. This hurts local solar companies, it destroys essential farmland and forests, and it encourages corruption.
Solar energy is essential to the survival of life on earth. So are clean, local food and large tracts of forest. Large scale chemical agriculture, the transportation of food across long distances, and the cutting of forests are major contributors to the climate crisis. Clean local produce, the protection of forests, and the planting of new trees are all essential to the solution. This is especially ironic in the Connecticut River Valley, which has among the most fertile soil on the planet. Increasing areas of it have been covered up, however, by malls, highways — and now solar arrays. Fields are being destroyed that, until just recently, were producing food for people, and were also home to bees, birds, butterflies, and many other creatures whose survival is in jeopardy and upon whose survival our own survival depends. Why were the solar panels not built upon the top of the malls, in their parking lots, on top of schools and government buildings — on land already destroyed for farming? In France there have been experiments to pave roads with solar panels. And why are not all the solar arrays built by local companies?

We need to change not just our sources of energy, but our thinking. Our very survival depends on our ability to stop thinking of land merely as a commodity to be used and built upon — no matter how worthy the building — and start seeing it as a living organism of which we are a part and on whose health we depend.

Thank you,

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