From: Domb, Mindy (HOU)
To: SMART, DOER (ENE)
Subject: "400 MW Review Public Comments."
Date: Friday, September 27, 2019 10:15:51 PM

Judith Judson, Commissioner
Department of Energy Resources
Boston, MA

Dear Commissioner Judson:
I am writing in regard to the 400 megawatt review of the SMART program. As you may be aware, the communities in the 3rd Hampshire District, which I represent in the Massachusetts House of Representatives, are deeply committed to the development and expansion of solar and other renewable energy resources throughout Massachusetts. My constituents support efforts to move the Commonwealth to 100% renewable energy in the next two decades. My comments here involve revising the SMART program to further support this goal and I submit them for your consideration.

I am concerned that the new benchmarks proposed by DOER are already obsolete, and that given the popularity of the program, we need to be doing more to support the expansion of solar throughout the Commonwealth.

I respectfully submit these recommendations:

<!--[if !supportLists]-->1) <!--[endif]-->**Increase capacity:** We need more capacity for projects and individuals to participate in the SMART program. I acknowledge the ways in which DOER increased the program for these current regulations, but I believe it needs to be more, and it needs to be now.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->2) <!--[endif]-->**Increase options:** create more defined categories for the size of prospective solar projects, moving from small and everything else to small, medium, large, extra large, etc. This will allow more projects to come on line and allow us to expand solar use in Massachusetts.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->3) <!--[endif]-->**Locating solar:** We need more sensitivity to locating solar arrays and the impact these decisions have on open space. We need to incentivize siting arrays and panels in the built environment over open space.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->4) <!--[endif]-->**Strengthen environmental protections:** and provide the technical assistance that small and mid-size communities need to evaluate SMART projects, their siting and their environmental impact.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->5) <!--[endif]-->**Lift the net metering cap:** to encourage greater installation and use of solar; and

<!--[if !supportLists]-->6) <!--[endif]-->**Enhance collaboration between DOER and DPU**: to identify barriers to solar installations that are posed by interconnection issues and recommend measures to remove these barriers at little to no cost to the consumer.

Thank you for your attention to my concerns.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to you again for scheduling a public discussion of these new regulations in Amherst. This meeting increased access to this process for residents of the Connecticut River Valley. Those in attendance found the meeting and question and answer period informative and appreciated your Department's willingness to come to Amherst for this discussion.

Sincerely,

Mindy Domb
State Representative, 3rd Hampshire District
Proudly representing the residents and communities of Amherst, Pelham, and precinct 1 in Granby

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Preferred Pronouns: she, her, hers