From:	Joslin Stevens
To:	SMART, DOER (ENE)
Subject:	SMART Solar sites
Date:	Friday, September 27, 2019 8:58:27 AM

Dear Legislators,

It is heartening to see Massachusetts leading the way in action to slow climate change. It concerns me, however, that large corporations from outside the state may be taking advantage of subsidies and incentives offered without concern for the consequences/damage that large scale industrial solar can have on wildlife, forests and communities. It is essential that steps are taken to protect forested areas and to utilize already cleared areas for larger solar arrays. Can these larger solar arrays be situated on the rooftops of shopping malls, university rooftops, libraries and other public buildings instead? Can we utilize the immense creativity within our educational institutions and within our state to find the very best locations where the most good the least harm are done? This, indeed is the challenge of the 21st century. We must not jump on the train of "all solar" or all anything but carefully evaluate each situation to assure that the advantages outweigh the cost- environmentally, of each proposal . And above all else we must protect existing forest. It takes a century to regrow a forest and we do not have the time to spare. Please ensure that industrial solar arrays are situated only on already cleared land and, where possible, on existing large rooftops. Please keep them out of rural wooded areas where the potential benefit is outweighed by the cost. Every single plan should be scrutinized and carefully calculated before subsidies and benefits are dispersed. We need to get this right. We need to prioritize the environment over financial gain, over speed and ease.

Thank you for your consideration,

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