



Jared Alvord, Co-Founder
Mad River Solar, LLC
PO Box 966
Waitsfield, VT 05673
9/14/2019

MA SMART Program Team
DOER.SMART@mass.gov

Dear MA SMART Program Team,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the recent Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target program 400 MW Review Straw Proposal. My company, Mad River Solar, LLC, is a stakeholder in the program that will be severely impacted by the current parameters of the straw proposal.

Mad River Solar, LLC has been actively developing a solar plus ESS project (NBE Fitchburg Solar – 4.3947 MW AC) in Fitchburg, Massachusetts for the past fourteen months. We, along with our partner North Branch Energy, LLC (property owner) have spent substantial development capital on wetland delineations, environmental studies, geotechnical studies, engineering, municipal permitting and interconnection fees to date. We have done everything by the book over the past year to get to a point where we could submit the project into the MA SMART program on August 15th, 2019. We were accepted and received a waitlist confirmation on August 27th, 2019. You can understand our frustration when this straw proposal came, and our project was the only project on the MA SMART waitlist in the entire state, that did not receive capacity in the new program.

I am writing now to ask that you consider finding a path forward in the straw proposal that includes enough capacity for **all** projects that were on the MA SMART waitlist prior to the straw proposal being submitted. With no prior knowledge of the path that the DOER would take with the 400 MW review straw proposal, our only path forward was based on the status quo. If nothing is done to update the current proposal, this decision will have a severe economic hardship on our company.

I hope that you will consider these comments and allow us to bring this solar project to completion for all our stakeholder's benefit.

Sincerely,

Jared Alvord, Co-Founder
Mad River Solar, LLC