From:	Kirstin Beatty
To:	SMART, DOER (ENE)
Subject:	solar incentives
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Please accept my testimony on behalf of Last Tree Laws.

Please be sure to protect forests and mature trees in crafting new regulations for solar incentives or other alternative energy.

Forests are far more important to protect due to the problems they are facing with increased disease, pests, logging, and issues like climate change which worsen forest health. Globally we are losing forests due to logging, fires, disease, and reduced regeneration from ill health. We need forests and the life that they support: our own and that of other species that support the ecosystem, including clean air and water. The many species within the forest actually allow it to survive, such as fungi, insects, and birds. Birds for example drop seeds far and wide.

Mature trees better provide seeds, habitat, carbon storage, climate stabilization, and often absorb more carbon dioxide by virtue of the mass of living bark and leaves for respiration.

Cutting down forests and mature trees would be terrible to include in incentives for solar or any other alternative energy, particularly when alternatives do exist.

Kirstin Beatty
Last Tree Laws Director