From:	Jackie Ballance
To:	SMART, DOER (ENE)
Subject:	400 MW Review Public Comments
Date:	Friday, September 27, 2019 1:10:37 PM

I am writing in support of H897, and the remove of any incentives for projects on forest land that could be detrimental to preservation of our oldest trees. In the words of Stephanie Jo Kent, PhD, from Belchertown MA:

Now is the time to prioritize the unique natural resource of Massachusetts' forests.

Specifically,

- remove any incentives for projects on forest land, especially solar
- support the passage of H897 "An Act relative to forest protection" and its complement in the Senate
- increase incentives for rooftop solar on pre-existing and new construction
- shift the job descriptions of all staff and leadership to emphasize preservation of all existing woodlands and work with State Government to create ways to:
    - monetize the "natural resource" of mature trees and undeveloped forest
    - reward jobs in the new energy sector and phase out jobs in the old lumber economy
    - transition foresters' skills from identifying wood for milling and any/other all uses to maintenance of robust forest health
    - create new jobs for those whose livelihood is currently tied to lumber including transition payments to replace lost income until new/alternative employment is found
- additionally, prohibit any discharge of waste from all aspects of cutting, clearing, transportation and production into waterways
    - enforce this prohibition with HEAVY fines -- that is, large enough that companies will seriously consider compliance rather than defiance or loopholes
    - put the proceeds from levied fines into water restoration/clean-up activities
- expressly remove any/all form of biomass collection involving trees and forests in the definition of "natural energy"
- commit to the protection, preservation and restoration of Native American Sacred Sites throughout Massachusetts
    - create financial incentives for companies and individual/family private property owners to seek to identify and recognize sacred ceremonial and Native American religious sites *in order to* protect, preserve and restore these sites

In support of this argument, please see Forests as Essential Infrastructure, https://medium.com/@stephjoke/forests-as-essential-infrastructure-f2e0fc1659fc

Thank you for your public service. Please genuinely exercise the emphasis on serving the public and not private corporatized business.

Respectfully,

Jackie Ballance

Registered Massachusetts Voter

Florence, MA