From:	Matthew Monteiro
To:	SMART, DOER (ENE)
Subject:	400 MW Review Public Comments
Date:	Thursday, September 12, 2019 8:14:55 AM

In Rochester, Massachusetts, where I live, solar farms have become a substantial challenge for the town and community.

Current MA regulations have enabled and incentivized solar developers to clear-cut forests and plunk solar farms in the middle of residential areas (even on properties zoned residential).

I am FOR the increase of renewable energy, including solar. However, I fail to understand why the state would incentivize clearcutting as a "green" energy tactic, especially when a solar farm clear-cut a residential area (i.e. not zoned industrial or commercial, so it is not like it would have been clear cut anyway for other commercial purposes).

This quote "Environmental groups are speaking out against certain kinds of solar projects, too. E. Heidi Ricci at the Massachusetts Audubon Society says small towns with volunteer boards are ill-equipped to control projects that big solar companies are bringing their way. And Jane Winn of the Berkshire Environmental Action Team says the state should encourage panels to go up on every appropriate big box store and parking lot, before providing incentives for them to be built on forest land." perfectly exemplifies the experience I've observed in our town.

When considering what to incentivize and what not to, please realize that our rural wooded farming town is inundated with solar companies looking to turn forest and field into glass and metal. Instead of generating electricity in or near population centers that will use it, we are creating a massive array of generators in a low population area with small town electrical infrastructure.

Thank you,
-Matt Monteiro

Quote from https://www.bostonglobe.com/business/2019/09/10/solar-backlash-may-make-tough-build-larger-projects-mass/qVp5jxevCAWLA1tuLdONWK/story.html?fbclid=IwAR3cV3k3MaNHl2cxTsaoIpOQv4aslMuTRBaMb5G9KaKM7D2WnXb0aGPEssw"

Solar backlash may make it tough to build larger projects in Mass. - The Boston Globe

A battle is brewing over the future of rural Massachusetts, as the Baker administration

adjusts a set of state incentives created to spur the growth of solar power. Think: open space vs. clean energy.

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