

Hi,

Thank you so much for your efforts.

Though since day 1 I have been fully in favor of solar and renewable energy when properly sited (and still am) it's clear to me that cutting down huge tracts of forest for solar farms is not smart policy on many levels and for many reasons.

I am most familiar with the Patterson Rd Shirley clear cuts and am horrified by what was done there without thinking anything through. A previously beautiful and intact area heavily used by wildlife and for recreation and water protection was destroyed beyond belief. Much of the center of one of the few remaining parcels of wooded areas was simply gutted without consideration or common sense. The local politics behind this apparently think that if no one can see the project from the road then it is ok. Not so. The topography is gone, everything. They turned a beautiful area into a wasteland for no good reason. It is a horrible example of solar gone wrong and all for a measly amount of money to the town. The politics of this project is one of the reasons I left town about a year ago. And this was done in the town from which the founder of the Appalachian Trail was from no less. What sort of heritage is that? It is ignorance and bad policy beyond belief to me.

I could go on and make many more points as to why the present policy and politics are hugely damaging to our environment and quality of life, but will leave it at that for now.

I have no problem with and fully support other solar farms that have been sited without cutting down our remaining forests. I buy 100% solar and wind power for my house, so please don't think I'm a nimby type. But I hope people wake up to the severity of the damage already done and change policy now, right now.

Thank you, Ron Farnsworth
 12 Old Battery Rd
 W. Townsend MA 01474