Dear Ms. Bisetta:  
  
I realize these comments are coming after today's 5:00 p.m. deadline. I hope DOER will still consider them.   
  
I am writing to request that DOER change its treatment of setbacks in the draft model bylaws for solar arrays. In view of the Trump Administration's decision to halt offshore wind, Massachusetts urgently needs to increase solar capacity. Given that urgency, the setbacks proposed for solar arrays should be much, much smaller -- something on the order of three to five feet (if they are needed at all). Setbacks of 25 or 50 feet make no sense under the circumstances. Aesthetics should not prevent property owners from maximizing the amounts of clean energy they generate.  
  
In addition, DOER should not encourage municipalities that are less densely developed (which will generally be more affluent communities) to adopt even bigger setbacks while promoting smaller setbacks for less densely populated (and less affluent) communities. This seems inconsistent with the state's commitment to environmental justice.  
  
Finally, the proposed bylaws do not account for the possibility of portable/plug-in solar, which would be permitted under the House's pending energy bill, H.4744. If the provisions in sections 37 and 78 of that bill become law, people will soon be hanging solar panels on fences. Your proposed bylaws would prevent that from happening and be at odds with the Legislature's intent. I recognize that model bylaws -- and enacted bylaws themselves -- can be changed if the House bill is enacted. But given how difficult that process is, it seems better to wait until the Legislature's work this session on an energy bill is complete.   
  
In view of that, I urge you to refrain from including any setback provisions regarding solar panels in the model bylaws.  
  
Thank you.  
  
Sincerely,   
  
Mike Dsida  
Milton, MA