

SMART Public Comment -- Mattapoisett Land Trust, Inc.

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To: SMART, DOER (ENE) <doer.smart@mass.gov>

Cc: Bill Straus <rep.straus@verizon.net>

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Dear DOER SMART program:

THANK YOU for all you are doing to bring clean renewable energy to Massachusetts. Mattapoisett Land Trust, Inc. (MLT) is an all-volunteer land conservation organization founded in 1974, with 300 members and over 50 active volunteers on our land stewardship, education, acquisitions, and finance committees. MLT protects nearly 900 acres of land in Mattapoisett and Rochester. MLT has worked cooperatively with local land owners and Town government for 46 years to create our conservation holdings, all of which are open to the public. Thousands of volunteer hours and millions of private, Town, state and federal dollars have been expended to accomplish our work since our founding.

MLT strongly supports the emergency land use and siting regulations issued on April 15, 2020 that discourage solar energy development on lands where 50 percent or greater of the area is designated as Priority Habitat, Core Habitat, or Critical Natural Landscape in Biomap2. This prohibition should remain in the land use siting regulations and guidelines. MLT and other conservation organizations make extensive use of Biomap2 mapping as guidance for our acquisition activities, and we fully understand the great importance of these lands to the biodiversity and ecological health of our commonwealth. These are not appropriate lands for solar development.

In addition, we urge DOER to discourage solar develop on lands that have been mapped by the commonwealth's Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) program as being important to future climate resiliency. In our town the MVP program has mapped areas vulnerable to sea level rise, areas subject to storm damage and hurricane surge, and pathways for future wildlife habitat migration. In our view it makes little sense to encourage solar development in these areas. We ask DOER to apply the same prohibitions to MVP mapped areas as used for the Biomap2 lands.

Thank you again for all of your work, and for the opportunity to comment on these emergency regulations. Please contact the undersigned with any questions or for further information.

Sincerely,

Mike Huguenin

Mike Huguenin
President, Mattapoisett Land Trust, Inc.

6/1/2020

Mail - SMART, DOER (ENE) - Outlook

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