



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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May 29, 2020

Patrick Woodcock,
Commissioner
Department of Energy Resources
100 Cambridge St., Suite 1020
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Commissioner Woodcock,

I'm writing relative to the Commonwealth's Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target (SMART) program and CMR 20.00, emergency regulations.

I would first like to commend the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) and the Baker Administration for its expansion of the SMART program by 1600 megawatts. This increase is a great start in achieving our climate goals.

I do however, have concerns relative to two aspects of the regulations and urge your consideration of revisions that would avoid negative impacts:

- 1) Land Use: The new provisions in the emergency SMART regulations could end large scale solar development in Massachusetts altogether. While I am sensitive to legitimate concerns regarding local land use and wildlife protection, these new regulations go too far in limiting what land is eligible for large scale solar projects throughout the Commonwealth. As you know, solar power is a crucial resource that needs to be cultivated if we, as a Commonwealth, want to achieve our shared greenhouse gas emissions

goals. I'm just not sure these regulations move Massachusetts in the right direction.

- 2) Safe harbor/Grandfathering: It is my understanding that these emergency regulations put several solar projects, over 477 megawatts of energy production, and \$731 million of privately invested funds at risk. As the Commonwealth works to rise from the horrible economic impacts of Covid-19, it is imperative that we protect and promote local jobs and development. If these projects and their developers have followed the rules and acted in good faith, they should not be punished by changing the rules in the middle of the game.

Thanks to a great partnership between the Legislature and the Baker Administration, we have identified that renewable sources are not only valuable resources benefitting our environment, but also critical economic development drivers that support local communities and thousands of permanent jobs for Massachusetts residents.

I appreciate your consideration and please do not hesitate to reach out to my office for any questions related to this, or any, matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.', with a stylized flourish at the end.

ANGELO J. PUPPOLO, JR.
State Representative