

SMART public comment

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

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Please protect Massachusetts's forests and farmlands from large-scale solar development.

The recently updated Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target (SMART) regulations, while positive, are only a step in the right direction. My experience on the Wendell Conservation Commission has shown me that still greater incentives are needed to protect forests and natural lands from irresponsible, profit-driven solar developers. Solar development on rooftops, parking canopies, highway cloverleaves, and other distributed areas must be made more practical than clearing forests, altering wetlands and destroying farmland for that purpose.

Please revise the SMART program to discourage the installation of large-scale solar arrays not only in Priority Habitat, Core Habitat, or Critical Natural Landscape as defined by BioMap2, but also where there are now forests or farmland. Also, please fully align this program with our Commonwealth's pioneering climate and land conservation programs and goals.

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"No problem can be solved from the same level of consciousness that created it." Albert Einstein