

## Smart public comment

Ellen Evert Hopman <saille333@mindspring.com>

Sat 5/30/2020 8:00 PM

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

**CAUTION:** This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sirs:

I am writing to comment on the Department's Emergency Regulations for the Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target (SMART) program. I thank the Department for listening to the concerns of AMC and many others and responding by adding the prohibition of solar energy development on land where at least 50 percent of the parcel's area is designated as Priority Habitat, Core Habitat, or Critical Natural Landscape, as well as developing a web-mapping tool to help identify these areas.

I am particularly concerned that Massachusetts land owners with tracts of forest keep seeking to cut them down to site solar panels. Solar panels belong in waste lands that are chemically polluted and unfit for wildlife or agriculture, on top of all municipal buildings, on top of old landfills, in parking lots, on median strips, and other disturbed areas.

We need to keep forests intact in a time of global warming, as carbon sinks and critical homes for wildlife. Forests also clean the air, clean water, hold back soil erosion, provide shelter for endangered song birds and animals, and many other benefits that are priceless and need to be included in your calculations.

Sincerely

Ellen Evert Hopman

67 Munsell St. Belchertown, MA 01007

413 323 4494