

SMART Public Comment

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To Whom It May Concern,

I would like to join the large group of people who would like to see the SMART program revised to significantly reduce the number of forests and farmlands being converted to large-scale ground-mounted solar arrays.

As a society, we should understand the contribution forests make to our life – from providing oxygen, removing carbon dioxide from the air we breathe, as well as controlling significant water runoff causing soil erosion problems to streams, rivers, ponds and lakes, as well as affecting down gradient wells and septic systems of nearby residents. Wildlife flourishes in the forests..... wildlife that enriches our lives. There should no longer be any large-scale deforestation for solar fields. Once gone, these forests cannot be replaced. They are too integral to our well-being to be destroyed and lost forever.

Open space and forests are recreation and food for the human sole. We cannot live by solar energy alone. We cannot destroy what helps to make us whole.

Solar incentives should be limited to commercial buildings, cover for parking lots, for individual home installations, disturbed areas and highway cloverleafs. Incentives to destroy forests and open land are not needed..... there are enough large ground mounted solar arrays at this time. It is time to prioritize care of our open spaces and forests. We know enough now about the effects of solar fields on our pristine fields and woods. It is time to make the choice to protect these areas and move on to siting solar energy where it will be less obtrusive, and cause less damage to our environment.

Respectfully,

Drue King, Warren Planning Board, Warren, MA