

SMART Public Comments

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

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Mike And Miriam Kurland
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May 21, 2020

Dear Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources,

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 webmapping tool to help identify these areas.

Additionally, I would like the Department to increase the Greenfield Subtractor by at least five times over its current level and apply the subtractor to the whole footprint of the development, not just the solar arrays.

Finally, I am concerned that the Department proposes to combine Eversource East and West energy capacity blocks into a single service territory. Doing so will allow all of the solar development capacity for Eversource East in eastern Massachusetts to be sited in western and central Massachusetts, placing tremendous solar development pressure on communities in the western and central parts of the state.

Solar projects should never be placed on forested land. They should only be allowed on rooftops, fields and empty lots where they can freely, without damage, add tons of clean energy to our communities. Communities need to be totally in charge of their own energy needs and small, local solar providers should be prioritized.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Department's SMART emergency regulations.

Sincerely,
Mike And Miriam Kurland