

"SMART Public Comment"

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

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Begin forwarded message:

Massachusetts Dept. of Environmental Affairs

We are private landowners and long-time cranberry growers. The Department of Energy Resources' new solar rules that came out April 15th just killed the community solar project on our land after two years of development because apparently our land is "turtle habitat". If the rules came out May 15th the project would have been accepted. I'm outraged! This is bad policy by the Baker Administration if an arbitrary sudden date can kill a real project at the 1-yard line when hundreds of thousands of dollars are invested; the Commonwealth should know that broad grandfathering provisions for projects in development during a regulation change is critical to attracting investment into the state, no matter the industry. Especially with Covid-19, we have a global economic crisis and should be doing everything we can to advance projects that create jobs, not kill them! The majority of the Massachusetts population supports renewable energy, the population is increasing, and electricity demand is increasing, but based on these regulation changes apparently the DOER supports killing projects that are well underway even if they help achieve these clean energy targets. Furthermore, our project would have been approved already if the local town committees held their meetings on the dates scheduled rather than missing so many for lack of quorum adding extra delay and cost to an approval process that has dragged on for two years only to be stopped dead in its tracks by your proposal. We ask DOER to consider rolling back these regulations or consider grandfathering projects such as ours for these common sense reasons.

Thanks for your consideration,
Harju Brothers Cranberries

Lawrence and Paul Harju, Owners