

Comments on SMART Program

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

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Christopher Porter
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May 18, 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 support solar development but agree it needs to be done in a way that protects natural habitat. I am pleased that the draft regulations would limit development on critical habitat areas.

I think the regulations should be stronger, though. There should be greater disincentives to develop on greenfield sites. I am also concerned about the proposal 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.

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

Sincerely,
Christopher Porter