

**SMART Public Comment**

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

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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 respondents and for 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, as a resident and contributor to my Town's and the Commonwealth's well being, I must remark that better protection regulations would have been better in place before or with Western Massachusetts' opening up to solar facilities. In my Town of Wendell, I am an unfortunate abutter to the only solar facility presently, which was approved under site plan review not special permit. Acres of trees were clearcut within that area of wetlands and vernal pools abutting one of the small amounts of agriculture soil here. This is typical along the Phase 3 line throughout Wendell. Our ConCom and DEP did the best they could with conditions. Toward your consideration of further environmental regulation applying to the use of Western Massachusetts for solar facilities in residential areas I ask that private drinking water wells be included in all solar facility permitting processes. Our 14 foot deep shallow well is about 500 ft., as the crow flies, from the fence surrounding this solar facility. Drinking water protection and setback regulation presently applies only to public water supplies.

Sincerely,  
Wanita Sears  
Wendell, MA.