

## SMART Public Comment

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

Cc: info@massland.org <info@massland.org>

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Dear Sir/Madam:

I write to urge respectfully that in creating SMART regulations you give priority to land conservation, rather than sacrificing undeveloped lands needlessly to build sources of solar power which can be created elsewhere.

Regulation drafting is not my area of expertise.

What I do understand is that undeveloped land provides important benefits of health, recreation, and wildlife habitat, to say nothing of combatting climate change by sequestering carbon and dealing with the effects of climate change by absorbing water in time of flood and releasing it in time of drought.

I also understand the need for solar power.

However, I also am aware that we are not even remotely close to exhausting the available space for solar panels on sites that have already been disturbed.

Take my little town of Weston. The DPW buildings have solar panels on the roof; the covered land fill has solar panels; I understand there is talk of putting solar panels on one of the schools. But that's it, as best I am aware. The remaining municipal buildings in the town, the super market, the other schools, and all these buildings parking lots are available for solar panels.

AND there is the Mass Pike. According to my rough estimate, the Pike, counting road, median strip, and a few feet of apron on either side, occupies approximately 3,000,000 square feet in the Town of Weston alone. If we can build buildings, bridges, and gantries on top of the Pike, we can certainly build solar panels on top of the Pike.

My point is that there is no shortage of already developed space available for solar panels. We should make a serious dent in utilizing this available space before we even talk about using and encouraging the use of forests and open space.

Please write the regulations in such a way as to discourage use of forests and other open space and to create incentives for the development of solar panels on already developed/disturbed spaces.

Respectfully yours,

P. Saunders, Jr.

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