

## SMART Public Comment

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Hello – I'm writing about the proposed regulations that could allow clear-cutting forests to make way for solar farms. Solar energy is only clean and green if it is sited intelligently, i.e., on land that has already been altered by buildings and infrastructure. Solar belongs on some buildings, parking lots, and along some roadways, for example. Solar should not be sited on forested land, farmland, or wildlife habitat. Developers find it highly profitable to buy forested land cheap, clear-cut and sell the trees, sell sand and gravel (if it exists there), and then put solar on top of what's left. But this is not in the best interest of the public because it damages the environment. Forests serve many functions that help us – mitigating climate change, cleaning air, cleaning water, providing wildlife habitat, and moderating the water cycle to lessen droughts and floods. And we are losing forests fast, in the U.S. and globally. The world has lost half of its trees since human civilization began. Climate change is also negatively impacting the health of our forests. We need to protect them. The regulations should allow destruction of precious lands (forests, farmland, wildlife habitat) for solar. There are plenty of other suitable places for solar. Please include strong provisions in the regulations that will steer solar development to where it makes sense and away from where it doesn't make sense. I love solar, but only in the right places.

Thank you,

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