

SMART public comment

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

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing to thank the Dept for all of their hard work in revising the program for solar developments. There are a few loopholes remaining in this revision which are troubling to myself and my husband. We feel that forests under Chapter 61 should be better protected as they do not at present fit into any of the 3 categories stated in the policy. These forests are irreplaceable both as valuable ecosystems and as carbon sinks, and should be recognized as such in the revised plan.

Also, in order to guard against lack of compliance and faulty planning, there should be enforceable penalties in place. Small towns do not have the funds or resources to fight large corporations in the aftermath of poor planning. The towns within which the solar arrays are proposed should also have a greater role in deciding the acceptable scope of the solar projects.

We feel finally that there should be incentives included in the program to maintain land as both forest and open land. Green energy is crucial for the future of the planet but so, is the continued existence of irreplaceable forest and open land.

We thank you in advance for your consideration in the addressing of these issues.

Sincerely,

Lynn Bengston and Jay Alexander

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