

PLEASE DO NOT PUT FORWARD SMART AS IT IS CURRENTLY PROPOSED.

I live in Deerfield, MA and have solar panels on my house. I also have served on the Deerfield Energy Committee and drive a Chevy Volt. Which I love! I was part of a group in Franklin County residents who worked to establish a one Megawatt community shared solar (CSS) Cooperative called SCoop. It would have been locally owned and controlled, a unique model. We were extremely close to pulling it off but because it became unclear what the State regulations were going to be in the future for CSS, we had to abandon the project. We could not tell our members/owners or the investors what the costs and benefits would be. So I was excited when I heard DOER was proposing new regulations. That was until I read them.

I am particularly interested in the advancement of CSS. It is the only way to increase residential and commercial solar in MA on a large enough scale to meet our State's renewable energy goals. As you well know, upwards of 75% of households and commercial enterprises are not able to put solar on their property. So we will be depending on CSS to carry us forward.

However, it will be a very hard sell for our residential members/customers when they find out that they will get the commercial net metering rate when their neighbor who had solar on his roof receives the 30% higher residential rate. This is a huge hurdle for CSS to overcome and you did not address this.

Please accelerate the development of Community Shared Solar so ratepayers have equal access to the benefits of Solar PV distributed generation. Do not slow it down with confusing and discriminatory adders. You will scare away investors especially local investors who will keep money instate and create local jobs.

Sincerely,
Mary Swedlund, Deerfield, MA