

Maddalena, Lesley (ENE)

From: Jim Barron <jim.barron@siriuscommunity.org>
Sent: Friday, January 19, 2024 9:29 AM
To: DOER SMART (ENE)
Cc: cbrown@seadvantage.com; tmichelman@seadvantage.com
Subject: Subject: Prioritize Disturbed Land & Single Arrays for Solar in SMART - Protect MA Forests!

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Dear Mass. DOER,

I write in strong support of incentivizing “disturbed land” and single-array solar configurations (parking lots, rooftops) within the MA SMART program. This approach maximizes solar energy's benefits while protecting our vital forests. Intact forests are our climate heroes: they capture carbon, filter drinking water, control floods, and shelter diverse life. We must prioritize solar development that avoids harming these irreplaceable resources.

Disturbed lands and single arrays offer a simple and effective solution. Existing parking lots, rooftops, and other disturbed areas hold vast potential for solar generation without disturbing forests. Single-array installations on these sites maximize efficiency while minimizing land use.

By incentivizing and streamlining permitting for such projects, Massachusetts can significantly accelerate our renewable energy transition without sacrificing our irreplaceable, precious forests. This approach aligns with sustainable development principles and reflects the values of many residents who prioritize both clean energy and environmental protection.

I urge you to implement regulations that prioritize development on disturbed lands and single arrays. Let Massachusetts lead the way in achieving a clean energy future while preserving our irreplaceable natural heritage.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jim Barron, Resident of 18 Community Center Drive, Shutesbury MA.