

Maddalena, Lesley (ENE)

From: victoria frothingham <vfrothingham@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2024 7:33 PM
To: DOER SMART (ENE)
Cc: CBrown@seadvantage.com; tmichelman@seadvantage.com
Subject: SMART Review Comments

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern:

I'm writing to share my comments on the SMART regulations. I'm a big fan of solar energy, but it has to be in the right place. Cutting down trees to build solar farms defeats the purpose of reducing our carbon emissions since the trees sequester carbon. The regs as they are currently written have provided a framework for solar subsidies in Mass. that have led to **much forest destruction and ecosystem intrusion**.

We need to **change the incentives** - away from building on land that offers resiliency and carbon storage/sequestration to building on disturbed land and the built environment. Incentives should be for solar development only on disturbed land and the built environment. Building on environmentally designated land, BioMap, should be prohibited without exception in order to align with State priorities to preserve forested land. The exception for "good cause," which would allow solar development in forests or agricultural land, should be removed. The regulations should include clear and measurable public health, welfare, and safety protections. These do not currently exist in the regs. The lack of these protections will likely lead to increased environmental injustice. Thank you for your attention to my comments and to the comments of the many citizens who want to protect the natural climate resiliency assets our forested lands provide. Best regards,
Victoria Frothingham