

Maddalena, Lesley (ENE)

From: Jody Shapiro <jodyshapirohd@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 2:49 PM
To: DOER SMART (ENE)
Cc: tmichelman@seadvantage.com; CBrown@seadvantage.com
Subject: SMART review comments

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With respect to your request for comments: It is deeply concerning that current loopholes in the SMART program create a situation in the Commonwealth whereby municipalities are forced to allow predatory, exploitative, industrial-scale ground mounted solar involving clearcutting large swaths of forest, overriding local zoning and local knowledge of ecosystem vulnerabilities and function, and in contradiction of the Commonwealth's actual stated priorities and strategies for carbon sequestration.

Given that the Massachusetts Technical Potential of Solar Report determines there are more than enough already disturbed/developed sites to meet all our solar needs in the Commonwealth, there is absolutely no need for the current loophole, which in real terms forces communities--particularly small rural communities vulnerable to costly lawsuit pressure by opportunistic out-of-state/offshore developers--to allow large-scale clearcutting of forests to install gigantic industrial solar (which more rightly belongs on existing landfills, industrial rooftops, parking lots, and brownfields). The SMART regulations must be updated promptly, so that the Commonwealth can both solarize wisely and also protect our forests/ecosystems that ALSO are demonstrably crucial for living with climate change.

Thank you for your consideration. Please do the right thing.

Sincerely,
Jody Shapiro, PhD
Shutesbury