

From: [Lexi Turner](#)
To: [SitingBoard Filing \(DPU\)](#)
Subject: Stakeholder Comments on Cumulative Impacts Analysis and Site Suitability Criteria for Clean Energy Infrastructure
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Dear Siting Board,

Please accept my recommendations regarding proposed energy siting regulations and guidelines that are in development by the Energy Facilities Siting Board (EFSB) and Department of Public Utilities (DPU). I am especially concerned with the loss of any forested lands, as trees reduce the amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere, a major greenhouse gas contributing to climate change. Cutting down trees to expand green energy capacity is a net negative in the effort to slow climate change.

Specifically:

"Small" energy projects and all Energy Storage System (ESS) battery systems should only be allowed on the built or disturbed environment. This is consistent with the recommendations of the Massachusetts Audubon and Harvard Forest report, [Growing Solar, Protecting Nature](#), which analyzed how Massachusetts can meet its solar goals while protecting its most valuable natural and "working" lands.

Ground-mounted solar projects should not be allowed on recently deforested land, defined as lands cleared less than 5 years ago. This is consistent with the recommendation of the Healey administration [Carbon Forestry Committee](#), which concluded that keeping forests as forests is important in reducing carbon loss and mitigating climate change.

The following areas should be excluded from large and small energy generation and transmission projects:

- Article 97 protected open space, including all Department of Conservation and Recreation state parks and reservations, state forests, watershed forests, and all Division of Fisheries and Wildlife state wildlife management areas. If these lands are categorized as ineligible, an exception should be considered for solar canopies, such as solar panels over a public beach parking lot.
- "Wetland resource areas" (under 310 CMR 10.04), including setbacks of 1,000 feet from identified wetlands resources.
- Properties included in the State Register of Historic Places (950 CMR 71.03), except as authorized by regulatory bodies.
- Areas identified as Massachusetts BioMap 2 Critical Natural Landscapes, Core Habitats,

Important Habitats, or Priority Habitats.

- Areas classified as Outstanding Resource Waters, wetlands or rivers.
- Flood plains or flood-prone areas.
- Lands that provide public drinking water.
- Prime farmland (as defined by the state)

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed regulations and guidelines.

Lexi Turner

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