

Bill S2596 -Liaison to Climate Action Now and Smart Solar Western MA - Support

Thank you for your important hard work and your attention as I speak in support of S2596

I'm Lenore Bryck from Amherst and liaison between Climate Action Now and Smart Solar WMass

Towns like mine throughout the Commonwealth are struggling and vulnerable because of flawed state and federal policies, including what is subsidized and how. They're under pressure and not equipped to handle or reject proposals from large privately owned corporations working with influential landowners, that sacrifice forests and farmlands, so they can make more money than w/rooftop solar.

Yes, it's more **expensive** and complicated to install solar on built landscapes; brown and grey fields, but not as expensive as the true costs of losing the interconnected system nature worked long and hard to create; the biological and social community that is the forest and the soil's microbial network.

Solar Companies are not equipped to understand or anticipate the full consequences of large-scale industrial installations on green lands as evidenced by devastating damage in Williamsburg and Wareham.

Forests have helped stabilize the climate, ensured biodiversity, regulated the water cycle, and sequestered carbon above and below ground, **since before humans inhabited the earth** and yet we have destroyed most of them.

With increasing floods, soil erosion and droughts in this new climate reality we need them even more. Not to mention for our mental and physical health

And now ironically, we rationalize that we must destroy nature's perpetual actual green energy to replace it with man-made temporary 'green energy'. Plants miraculously convert solar energy into carbon matter in a perpetual cycle, but we are more impressed with our solar collectors that after 25 years might become toxic waste

Farmers I've talked to are 'outraged at the thought of MORE taxpayer benefits for landowners to take land out of agriculture and put them into solar'.

If we're really serious about climate and biodiversity collapse, **funding, should also be directed towards ecologically based land stewardship and**

retraining- to update and transform forestry and farming practices that can regenerate ecosystems, to reduce carbon emissions, promote carbon accumulation, enhance biodiversity, ensure nutrient density and food security for public and planetary health.

And even as we need this law to empower towns' sovereign rights, we need the state to be more pro-active in coordinating **regional approaches**, consulting experts from all disciplines to fill in our knowledge gaps, and supporting towns to protect their natural resources and meet the state's climate goals by collaborating.

We need a multipronged approach including energy alternatives, reducing consumption/ living within limits, protecting and regenerating the ecosystem that is breaking down, because we have broken natural law.

This man-made law is a small important step towards healing.

Thank you

We compiled an educational **packet of resources on forest and solar concerns**, available upon request, if you'd like more evidence.

Please feel free to reach out to discuss further or for more information.

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<http://climateactionnowma.org/farms-forests-food/>

<https://sites.google.com/view/smartsolarwmass/home>

