

HOUSE No. 3229

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Aaron L. Saunders

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act prohibiting public and ratepayer funding of clearcutting forests and woodlands.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Aaron L. Saunders</i>	<i>7th Hampden</i>	<i>1/16/2023</i>
<i>Marcus S. Vaughn</i>	<i>9th Norfolk</i>	<i>1/20/2023</i>
<i>Jacob R. Oliveira</i>	<i>Hampden, Hampshire and Worcester</i>	<i>4/21/2023</i>
<i>Priscila S. Sousa</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>	<i>6/22/2023</i>

HOUSE No. 3229

By Representative Saunders of Belchertown, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3229) of Aaron L. Saunders and Marcus S. Vaughn relative to prohibiting public utility and ratepayer funding of clearcutting forests and woodlands. Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)

An Act prohibiting public and ratepayer funding of clearcutting forests and woodlands.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the department
2 of energy resources and department of public utilities shall amend any rules, regulations, and
3 tariffs pursuant to section 11 of chapter 75 of the acts of 2016 or successor statute to prohibit
4 from qualification any solar facility, including any solar energy generating source, that (1) has
5 not received a statement of qualification, or similar official notice of approval, from the
6 department prior to January 1, 2023 and (2) is greater than or equal to nameplate capacity of
7 500kW if such facility meets any of the following criteria:

8 (i) is located within a parcel that includes priority habitat as delineated by the division of
9 fisheries and wildlife under chapter 131A

10 (ii) is located within an area of critical environmental concern as designated by the
11 secretary of energy and environmental affairs

12 (iii) is located within forest land as defined in section 2 of chapter 61 of the general laws

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14 SECTION 2. A prohibition established in Section 1 shall not apply to facilities located
15 within a brownfield or within eligible landfills as determined by the commissioner of the
16 department of energy resources; nor shall such prohibition apply to building mounted facilities or
17 facilities sited upon previously developed land.