

Dumaine, Julia

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Sent: Wednesday, June 16, 2021 11:56 AM
To: DEEP OPPD
Cc: Mark Scully
Subject: STEPS

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment regarding the solar siting issues in Connecticut.

I think our best short term step is to fully explore solar canopies. These are currently more expensive to construct and incentives need to be put in place to make sure we're taking advantage of this low hanging siting fruit. Many locations will be on privately held land. Providing incentives for private entities to invest in canopies will be critical to obtaining permission and investment here that can benefit everyone.

I also think it's important to shift our thinking from how much these projects are costing now to what is the future cost for NOT doing these projects. We can't let current cost be a barrier when the future impact of not doing them is immeasurable. The extra expense of canopies needs to be balanced against the benefits of maintaining crucial crop land and watersheds as well as costs that will come with increased heat and climate risks if we delay.

Thank you.

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