

To: The Cape Cod Commission  
From: Stephen G. Tom  
Date: April 29, 2020  
RE: Proposed AMP Energy Solar Array in Sandwich at 180 Cotuit Rd.

I am writing to oppose the construction of the proposed solar array.

As a former Sandwich resident and current Falmouth resident, I have had a long career in the technology sector; granted not in either the environmental or energy sectors. However, my work in applying international communications satellite capabilities to real world communications needs and opportunities has made me a dedicated advocate of technology solutions to improve quality of life for all. In this context, I have supported the development of renewable energy systems because I believe we must address the very serious and immediate climate change issues that we are facing globally.

Here on Cape Cod, with our limited and dwindling forested acreage, we face a development dilemma. How do we manage the built environment to meet the needs of future generations, without irreparably damaging the balance of nature? Like others who have commented, I am not an expert on these issues. However, I have been a supporter of Mass Audubon, The Cape Cod Climate Change Collaborative, and the Association to Preserve Cape Cod, and I rely on their deep research to guide my advocacy on the matter of AMP's proposal.

In spite of my opposition to the AMP proposal, I urge the Cape Cod Commission to do all in its power to enable and encourage the development of renewable energy generating capacity (solar, wind – off shore & land based, geothermal, ocean energy, and more). Let us resist the urge to clear forested areas because it is too hard and too expensive to use roof-tops, canopied parking areas, and other sites. Instead, I hope we can bring commercial technology, developers, government policy-making, and innovative financing together in order to make the difficult possible and practical.

Advocating for future generations,

Stephen G. Tom  
34 Daniel Street  
Falmouth, MA 02540-2803  
(508) 685-3735