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Comments: It is clear to many concerned Americans, not just scientists and environmentalists, that it is essential to protect old growth forests. As we face pressures to invest in green energy, it has to be recognized that forests are both invaluable and irreplaceable. that the work they do to protect the environment is perpetual and unique, and that the destruction of such a resource for any reason is indefensible.

In Massachusetts, over 6,000 acres have been lost solar development over a period of five years, and over half of the development resulting in forest loss is attributable to solar projects. (Clark University).

It is essential that laws be written, passed, and enacted which prevent the loss of mature standing forests for any reason. Climate change is expected to bring increased rainfall, with resultant flooding and erosion, which harms wildlife, threatens food production, destroys resource areas, and disrupts daily activities. Drastic land use change is a major contributor to loss of control over the ground, especially when the canopy and root systems are removed, releasing carbon and changing the rate at which water is retained.

Massachusetts has endured the damages wrought by poorly sited, designed and constructed commercial solar arrays, which resulted in damages and successful lawsuits - but not in the restoration of the destroyed environment. (see Atty General Martha Healey record of successful litigation of Dynamic over failures in Williamsburg and others).

The timber industry is a vital part of the US economy, providing necessary goods. This must continue, but only in accord with practices which recognize and preserve the remaining old growth/mature forests which protect wildlife as well as human kind from environmental catastrophe.