Dear [Name]:

On behalf of Maine-based non-profit organizations and entities committed to supporting solar energy development in Maine, please accept these planning tools to help your municipality thoughtfully locate new solar development.

Thanks to policies passed in 2019, Maine is on the cusp of a new era of solar power development. From rooftop arrays that power individual households and businesses, to grid-scale projects that provide power to customers across the electricity grid, Maine is realizing solar’s many benefits: good jobs, lower energy costs, and clean energy.

The variability of municipal planning resources across Maine is substantial. To help bridge this gap and to spur interest in solar development, our group came together to create a suite of resources to guide individuals, municipalities, and decision-makers toward realizing the benefits of solar, while siting projects that address the needs of their community.

This mailing contains the following items:

- **Solar in Maine: Frequently Asked Questions for Siting and Hosting Solar Projects at the Municipal Level.** This document provides answers to common questions about solar development that have been raised by municipal officials, landowners, and others considering larger solar projects for their own use or in their communities.

- **Best Practices for Low Impact Solar Siting, Design, and Maintenance - Avoiding and Minimizing Impacts to Natural and Agricultural Resources.** This document, authored by Maine-based environmental and agricultural organizations, outlines best practices to avoid and/or minimize impacts to wildlife, farming, and critical natural resources from solar development.

- **Model Site Plan Regulations and Conditional Use Permits to Support Solar Energy Systems in Maine Municipalities.** This document describes and models two land-use tools Maine municipalities may use to permit small-, medium-, and large-scale solar energy systems, including both ground-mounted and roof-mounted solar installations.

More resources can be found online at maineaudubon.org/solar, including a GIS-tool that aggregates mapped resources that may guide a municipality's decision where to locate solar projects, such substations, developed/previously impacted land, and natural resources.

For more information, Nick Lund at Maine Audubon (nlund@maineaudubon.org) or Todd Martin at the Natural Resources Council of Maine (tmartin@nrcm.org).

Sincerely,
Eliza Donoghue
Maine Audubon
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