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SAVE THE PINE BARRENS

of Southeastern Massachusetts

www.savethepinebarrens.org



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Organizers in Eastern and Western Massachusetts are holding their [Second Annual Honor the Land Rally](#) on August 13th from 2:00 – 6:00 p.m. in Plymouth and Turner Falls to protect drinking water, farms, forests and wetlands.

Across the Commonwealth our land and waters are being threatened and destroyed by inappropriately sited large scale solar projects.

In Southeastern Massachusetts, both reckless solar development and unregulated mining for sand and gravel are altering and threatening forests, biodiversity, Indigenous culture and the Plymouth Carver Sole Source Aquifer. The Aquifer is the sole source of drinking water for 150,000 people in seven towns.

The cranberry industry conducts sand and gravel mining under the ruse of "agriculture" claiming it has to level the region's highest hills to build bogs and reservoirs. Other sand and gravel schemes claim leveling hills is "necessary" for large solar or a subdivision roadway. The cranberry industry and developers use the false pretense of "agriculture" or a "subdivision" claim to seek exemptions from local zoning that prohibits large scale earth removal .

Cranberry giant AD Makepeace Co. of Wareham has at least four sites underway claiming it is leveling hills to build cranberry bogs. AD Makepeace and Borrego Solar have clear cut over [330 acres](#) of pristine forested land with endangered species habitat in the Atlantic Coastal Pine Barrens in Carver and Wareham. In Carver, SLT Construction is [leveling](#) the Town's highest hill for a "subdivision road".

In Kingston, Plympton Sand and Gravel is [proposing](#) a cranberry bog on a 200 foot hill—one of the highest around. In Halifax, Morse Brothers Cranberry is also trying to [cover up](#) its proposed sand and gravel operation as cranberry agriculture. Local residents are fighting these schemes with signs like "Stop the Big Dig" while others ask, "The Big Fib?"

In Western Massachusetts, there are plans to clear cut forests and degrade prime farmland for large scale solar. The Northfield Mountain pump storage project is pulling water out of the Connecticut River, causing severe damage to the river and its ecology. State subsidies for biomass burning degrades our forests, our air and the public's health.

All of this is occurring as Massachusetts public forests are being logged at a time when organizers say we need them to stay intact to help with climate change and the biodiversity collapse.

The August 13th rally will call attention to these problems, is a call to action, as well as a celebration of the beauty and value of our natural resources in Massachusetts.



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