Northern Tree Service Inc.

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Courtney Feeley Karp
Department of Energy Resources
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 1020
Boston, MA 02114

Renewable Portfolio Rulemaking Class 2

Dear Ms. Karp:

I am the president of Northern Tree Service, Inc. located in Palmer. My company employs approximately 100 people. Northern Tree Service operates in southern New England and, among other services, is engaged in logging for forest management. We have been in business for over 50 years. As you may know, the area around Worcester has been subjected to an infestation of the Asian Longhorn Beetle. This has resulted in the need to safely destruct and use the wood from over 20,000 trees. Northern Tree Services has been awarded 2/3 of this contract. Most of that wood will be delivered to the Pinetree Fitchburg wood electrical generating plant in Westminster. Pinetree's role is not only critical to the project's schedule but its mission to eradicate this pest before it does irreversible harm to our woodlands and urban forests.

The Pinetree Fitchburg generating plant is an important buyer of wood material from my business, whether it be wood from forest management, wood procured under the Longhorn Beetle eradication project or most recently the large volume of wood that Pinetree Fitchburg received from our disaster recovery efforts in the recent ice storm. The continued operation of generating plants like Pinetree is important to good forest management in Massachusetts as it is one of a few local buyers for such wood. Generators like Pinetree also provide a number of forestry and environmental benefits and help support jobs in those sectors of our economy.

I understand that the Department is engaged in a rulemaking to revise its existing emergency rule providing for renewable energy credit payments to generators like Pinetree Fitchburg. I understand that the emergency rule renewable credit level may not create much support for wood-burning plants. Increasing the credit amount will help support jobs and the other forest benefits noted above.

For the above reasons, I ask that the Department revise its emergency rule to provide increased renewable energy credit support for wood-burning electrical generators.

Sincerely,

Philip Cambo

cc: Senator Brewer
Secretary Bowles
Representative Smola
Representative Gobi