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Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources
Hearing, March 29, 2022.
Testimony from Cooley Dickinson Hospital submitted April 1, 2022.

Commissioner Woodcock,

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in response to proposed DOER regulations regarding biomass.

Cooley Dickinson uses wood chips as an energy source to provide some of the heat and electricity our campus needs. The plant was put into service 40 years ago and there have been upgrades along the way.

Because we provide health care services to critically ill patients, it is essential that we always have access to power medical equipment. We are required to have at least two sources of energy – and have for many years have relied on wood and natural gas.

It is vital to our operations and financial stability that we are “grandfathered” into the regulations and allowed to continue to operate our wood chip plant. Removing this provision would require significant and costly investments in facilities as well as result in dramatically higher energy costs.

We appreciate that the proposed regulations provide language that avoids elimination of a critical energy source and resultant negative impact on our ability to provide patient care.

Sincerely,

Lynnette Watkins, MD
President and CEO
Cooley Dickinson Hospital