From: Nancy Polan
To: DOER RPS (ENE)
Subject: RPS public comment, Category B
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Dear Commissioner Woodcock,

I am opposed to weaker RPS and APS standards for bioenergy, and biomass subsidies. All subsidies must foster solar, wind and geothermal energy.

This hearing presents you with a brief window of opportunity to counteract the misinformation coming from the timber industry and to make science-based policy. The biomass industry, buoyed by billions of dollars of subsidies each year, is based on the false claim that it produces “clean” energy and is sustainable. Most of the emissions from biomass production, known as “ghost emissions” are not counted, and since they are undocumented by any agency, allows the industry to claim they are carbon neutral. Timber harvest, pellet production, transportation, and smokestack emissions release massive amounts of carbon emissions which will not be completely removed from the atmosphere for decades, perhaps centuries. Reforested trees cannot grow fast enough to capture and store carbon in the short amount of time we have in order to reach net-zero emissions.

The DOER website states that “DOER helps create a clean, affordable, equitable and resilient energy future for the Commonwealth.” Biomass does not provide energy resiliency, nor is it clean, affordable, or equitable.

The DOER is obligated to implement the Global Warming Solutions Act and the 2050 Roadmap Plan. This can only be accomplished if we transition off fossil fuels, eliminate biomass, and save forests for their maximum ability to store carbon, provide wildlife corridors, and cool the planet. Success depends on meeting all these conditions with lightning speed.

I call on you to build an energy future for the health and well-being of the public and the Planet, not the polluters.

Nancy Polan