

From: Fran Ludwig
To: [DOER RPS \(ENE\)](#)
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We understand that you are proposing to weaken MA standards that define "renewable energy source." **The proposal to continue to include biomass in this category flies in the face of the intent of the recently passed Climate Roadmap Bill.**

- **Burning biomass produces the equivalent of coal in terms of planet warming pollution**, in addition to spewing asthma inducing particulate matter.
- While wood may be considered by some to be a renewable resource, in terms of climate, **by the time trees are big enough to sequester significant amounts of carbon our window of opportunity for a 1.5° world will be slammed shut.**

Bottom line: **burning biomass will make it harder for us to achieve our climate goals** in 2030 and 2050. And since climate knows no political boundaries, burning biomass in Maine or New Hampshire to provide our electricity will still affect us in Massachusetts. We are all in this together.

In addition, **MA is counting on our forested land** and other natural areas to **absorb carbon that might be generated in 2050**. If there is any state-sponsored incentive via the RPS to use woody biomass for generating electricity, the economic calculus might encourage the cutting of trees to feed power plants. We can't let that happen. The **cost of climate impacts** (state borne) far exceeds profits that private biomass enterprises make and pay taxes on.

We urge you to think of our long range climate goals in considering the inclusion of biomass in the RPS . **Our grandkids' future (and that of children across the globe) is at stake. The decision before you is a MORAL one.** We MUST do whatever we can to rein in climate change NOW.

Fran Ludwig
Co-Chair Boston Catholic Climate Movement