

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed Alternative Portfolio Standard regulations as it relates to biomass and biofuels. We live in the Berkshires where the forest industry hopes to use our forest assets for their industry's gain. This end of the state is the poorest and least populated area of Massachusetts. We have fewer people, fewer voices to protect our forests in this part of the state. The forest industry hopes to use our forests for their monetary gain. Tourism is our livelihood. Currently we have clear cutting of our forests which has left destruction not only of beauty, homes of birds and forest animals, but also left deep rutted tracks in the land. People come here to hike, rest by lakes and streams to feel and enjoy the beauty of our landscape as well as all the cultural events. Deforestation is not something that will help this area. More than that, the PFPI (Partnership for Policy Integrity) has already published an article indicating that Massachusetts is currently the top polluter from wood burning in New England. Ash produced by wood burning causes asthma, allergies and lung problems. Using public money for thermal energy is not a proper use of our tax payer funds. We would be much better off to promote solar and geothermal energy.

Ann Galt