

To the DOER, Clean energy doesn't come from a smokestack, and I am urging you to use our state alternative energy funds to support non-polluting forms of "green" energy that won't add more carbon dioxide and pollution to our climate and air. In the Pioneer Valley, asthma is already of epidemic proportions, and adding more particulate matter to the air will only worsen these conditions. PM 2.5 is a significant health threat since these particles are so small that they don't get stuck in your nose and go directly into the deepest parts of your lungs. The medical research is incontrovertible. These particles cause respiratory illnesses like asthma and cardiovascular disease and type 2 diabetes. The cleanest burning Okefen state of the art burner adds 830 times more PM 2.5 emissions to the air we breathe than natural gas. The APS standard for wood chips allows for 5,000 times more PM 2.5 than natural gas. Furthermore at a time when our federal government has removed us from the Paris Accord and our governor has vowed to keep our state on track to meet our climate commitments, this is a step in the wrong direction at a time when we can no longer afford missteps. Although the forestry and biomass industries have substantial funds to lobby for their interests, they don't speak for the majority of Massachusetts residents who want their tax money spent on alternative clean energy forms and research that can help those already suffering from sickness as well as all inhabitants of our state and planet. I expect Massachusetts to continue to lead by example by not allowing state subsidies to prop up this form of prehistoric energy. Thanks you for your consideration, Lee Ann Warner, 55 Montague Road, Leverett MA 01054