

August 7, 2017

Ms. Samantha Meserve
Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 1020
Boston, MA 02114

RE: APS Comments

I am writing to support the inclusion of woody biomass in the final APS regulations. I am a forest landowner and we need markets for low value wood. Extending APS credits for wood chips and wood pellets makes sense for many reasons including:

- Making good forestry affordable
- Making hard to manage forest plots worth managing
- Makes creating wildlife habitat (such as for declining populations of migratory songbirds) affordable
- Keeps foresters and loggers employed, a key economic sector in rural communities
- Helps keep family-owned forestlands undeveloped and in use as working landscapes
- Allows us to avoid importing costly and dirty fossil fuels

Adopting final APS regulations which give credits for woody biomass will help spur more timber stand improvement on additional forest acreage across the state which will improve forest health and reduce risk of forest fires in many areas. Creating more demand for wood chips and pellets will help drive conversion of more fossil fuel heating systems to wood heat systems at schools and colleges, hospitals and government buildings spurring jobs and saving money for school districts and municipalities.

Matt L. Barron
54 Stage Road
Williamsburg, MA 01096