

# RESTORE:



**TESTIMONY OF MICHAEL J. KELLETT  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, RESTORE: THE NORTH WOODS  
TO THE MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY RESOURCES (DOER)  
ON AMENDED DRAFT REGULATION  
225 CMR 16.00: ALTERNATIVE ENERGY PORTFOLIO STANDARD (APS)  
HOLYOKE, MASSACHUSETTS  
August 7, 2017**

My name is Michael Kellett. I am co-founder and executive director of RESTORE: The North Woods, a New England conservation organization with offices in Massachusetts and Maine. I have been involved for more than 30 years in wildlife, forest, and land use policy at the local, regional, state, and national levels. The organization I represent has hundreds of members and supporters across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

I am here today to register RESTORE's strong opposition to the revised draft regulations proposed by the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources to allow burning wood for heat to be eligible for "clean energy" credits through the state's Alternative Energy Portfolio Standard (APS).

This misguided policy would increase the immediate release of carbon into the atmosphere, which would worsen climate change. It would increase toxic air pollution, which would harm public health. It would promote intensified logging, which would degrade New England forest ecosystems and undermine their capacity to store carbon. The wood is supposed to come from "sustainable forestry," but there is no scientifically accepted definition of what is "sustainable." No matter how destructive the logging is, if a forester claims it is "sustainable," then it would meet APS standards.

Massachusetts needs to learn a lesson from Maine. More than two decades of work by my organization to promote sound management policies in the Maine Woods was rewarded in 2016, with the designation by President Obama of a new Katahdin national monument. During that same period, the forestry and biomass energy industries plummeted and thousands of jobs disappeared. Maine's government used taxpayer subsidies to bail out these industries, but this policy has been an utter failure.

Now Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources is proposing to use a similar strategy. It is also doomed to fail. DOER is advocating a bankrupt policy of giving tax breaks to promote cutting down and burning forests to produce dirty and climate disrupting energy. If Massachusetts citizens knew that this is exactly what is being proposed by DOER, we are certain that they would be outraged.

Instead of following Maine's ill-conceived policy of burning forests as fuel, the Commonwealth's policy should focus instead on protecting our forests for their ecological, climate, recreational, public health, and economic benefits. This is the priority of the new Katahdin national monument in Maine. The monument protects the forest from logging, while

promoting backcountry recreation. It is already helping to revive the local economy by attracting new tourism and jobs. That is what we need in Massachusetts.

We call on Governor Baker to place an immediate moratorium on any state incentives for logging and burning trees for energy. We also call on the Legislature to amend our laws to eliminate this destructive and shortsighted policy. This would benefit the forests, our climate, and the health of the people of Massachusetts.