

[thermal.doer@state.ma.us](mailto:thermal.doer@state.ma.us) Subject APS comments

Dear Sirs, Madams, My wife and I have a 300 acre tree farm in Becket Massachusetts. I make my living from this forest by managing the woodlands on a sustained yield basis. I've been working in the woods for over forty years. I believe, based on my own experience, that we can manage our forests in Massachusetts sustainably and build a durable forest products economy. To do this we must have markets for low grade wood. Many of the mills are gone that at one time provided that market and created good local jobs for our rural communities. Wood based fuels can be an excellent opportunity to not only help manage the woods, but also reduce our reliance on fossil based fuels. If we don't manage our forests by thinning the low grade only the best and most valuable trees will be cut, thereby leaving a degraded forest landscape, and nothing left for future generations to create and sustain a viable forest industry.

There are many ways for the public to understand the importance this forest economy has for our rural economies. Visit a logging site, talk to the loggers and understand the process and the people. Visit a sawmill, see the pride in a product created from nearby forests. Talk to a DCR service forester and appreciate the vital role they play in helping to manage the woods. A working forest land owner can also help the public understand this resource and how to manage it for all of us. None of us in this industry are interested in destroying this valuable resource. We need it to continue doing the work we love. The forests can be forever, but only if we manage them for our own benefit and those of future generations. Thank you, Neil F Toomey, Neil Toomey Tree Farm, Becket, Massachusetts