



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY RESOURCES

100 CAMBRIDGE ST., SUITE 1020

BOSTON, MA 02114

Internet: www.Mass.Gov/DOER

Email: Energy@State.MA.US

Deval L. Patrick
Governor

Timothy P. Murray
Lieutenant Governor

Ian A. Bowles
Secretary, Executive Office of Energy
and Environmental Affairs

Philip Giudice
Commissioner

TELEPHONE
617-626-7300

FACSIMILE
617-727-0030
617-727-0093

June 10, 2010

Dear Biomass Stakeholders and Interested Public:

The Department of Energy Resources is pleased to release the Biomass Sustainability and Carbon Policy Study. The study was commissioned by DOER, in coordination with the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, in November 2009 to provide an analysis of the available forest-derived biomass resource, the role of the forest in carbon sequestration with and without biomass harvesting, and the net carbon balance of biomass energy used to displace fossil fuels. The report has been prepared by a team of scientists led by the Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences. DOER is pleased to offer the new body of important research work to the community.

DOER commissioned the Manomet Study to establish a sufficient scientific understanding of the biomass forest and carbon interface on which to base prudent biomass energy policy. We are now ready to begin that process and look forward to public discussions and input.

To this end, DOER will shortly announce details on a policy making process including a set of public meetings in July to review the Manomet Study and discuss policy implications and options. These discussions will be followed by a deliberate and open policymaking process in July and August to review proposed regulatory and policy directions of DOER and gain stakeholder input on potential changes to the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard (RPS) and other policy options. Following this public review, DOER will engage in formal rulemaking to revise the RPS regulations in the fall.

DOER has appreciated the substantial public input to the complex biomass issues facing the Commonwealth and our renewable energy goals and greenhouse gas reduction commitments. DOER will accept and post written public comments on the Manomet Study through July 9, 2010. Please email those comments (as MS Word or PDF files) to doer.biomass@state.ma.us. The Manomet Study, public comments, and important information on public outreach and meetings will be posted at DOER's website www.mass.gov/doer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Philip Giudice".

Phil Giudice
Commissioner