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We believe our faith calls us to change the world!

14 May 2019

Department of Energy Resources  
100 Cambridge St., Suite 1020  
Boston, MA 02114

For the 20,000 Unitarian Universalist in Massachusetts, Climate Action and Justice is our top priority. We believe that we must be good stewards of the earth and that the decisions we make today, will impact the generations to come.

We also recognize the dire consequences being faced worldwide by people today. Forced migration due to climate change is an escalating problem. The last thing any government should be doing right now is weakening the laws that protect us and subsidizing carbon producing fuel sources. This is exactly what the DOER proposed changes will do.

In 2012, Massachusetts led the way in setting standards that accepted the science of climate change and placed us on a responsible path, one that demonstrated it cared about the future of its people. Today, we understand that the changes in our environment are happening more rapidly than anticipated – we have 12 year to drastically reduce carbon emissions in order to avoid catastrophic consequences worldwide. In many areas of the world, those catastrophic consequences have already arrived.

The DOER proposal will pave the way for a government subsidized biomass plant in Springfield. Springfield is an Environmental Justice community, meaning that it already suffers from the burden of a toxic environment. This is an area that already struggles with poverty, high asthma rates in children and inadequate resources.

No people or places in Massachusetts should ever be sacrificed again in order to provide energy to the Commonwealth. Now, is the time to invest in our future – in new clean renewable energy sources that don't add more greenhouse gas emission into the atmosphere.

Now is a time to be replanting forests – forests that sequester carbon in our atmosphere. Now is a time for bold change that propels us into the future.

We, at UU Mass Action, implore you not to make the proposed changes. I ask you to consider the wellbeing of all Massachusetts residents. And, I ask you to help protect our shared future, not propel us backward, into the folly of our past.

Sincerely,

Tali Smookler  
Community Organizer

Laura Wagner, MSW  
Executive Director

PO Box 224, Greenbush, MA 02040-0224 | 617-356-7737 | [www.uumassaction.org](http://www.uumassaction.org)  
Laura Wagner MSW Executive Director, [lwagner@uumassaction.org](mailto:lwagner@uumassaction.org)