

**DOER Testimony Re Biomass/Proposed RPS Class I & Class II
Rulemaking
May 13, 2019**

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Hello, My name is Randi Soltysiak and I am here on behalf of my daughter April who is 11 and my son Ari who is 8. Thank you for holding this hearing today. I am part of the group Mothers Out Front. We are we are working for a swift, complete, and just transition away from fossil fuels to clean energy, because climate change is threatening our children's future, and actually our children's present. Climate change is happening now, and it poses a threat to everyone in this room, today.

Yesterday was Mother's Day. My daughter said to me, "Mom, I'm going to be a mother someday so I'm celebrating Mother's Day too." I had to hold back tears because I do hope she gets to be a mother someday but I really don't know what the future will look like for her when she is an adult. I mostly try not to think about the IPCC report and what things will look like in 11 years because it is devastating and overwhelming. But instead of being paralyzed I am here speaking out because I still believe that we can make choices today that can change the course we are on.

Choosing to weaken the standards regulating biomass, and indeed to even include it at all in the definition of a renewable energy source is the WRONG choice. It is a choice that threatens my children and your children and everyone in this room, because of climate change. We need to be RE-forestry and planting trees on a massive scale, not cutting down trees and burning them.

This is my daughter's inhaler. We are lucky that her asthma is not severe, and that we don't live in the immediate vicinity of a biomass plant, because that would make breathing a lot harder for her and everyone who does live near it.

Members of the Department of Energy Resources, I urge you to use your power to make the choice today that will protect children. I urge you to not subsidize biomass as a source of renewable energy, and not to weaken the standards we currently have for regulating it.

When we include biomass as a renewable energy source, we are contributing to climate change and in 2019 it is not a radical idea to link climate change to genocide. A New York Magazine article from October 2018 headline reads "UN says climate genocide is coming but it's worse than that."

<http://nymag.com/intelligencer/2018/10/un-says-climate-genocide-coming-but-its-worse-than-that.html>

Massachusetts DOER: Please connect the dots here. You are good people who value science and fact based decision making. You love your children and want to protect them from climate change. It is on you to change the course we are on.

Please make the right choice for them and all children today. Thank you for listening to me.