

To Massachusetts DOER,

Presented at the hearing in Springfield, MA on June 5, 2019

My name is Ed Olmstead from Florence, MA. I attended the hearing at UMass on May 16<sup>th</sup> and intend to submit further written testimony this week to DOER. Having considered what was said at the hearing in Amherst, I wanted to add briefly to my previous words in person. At the May 16<sup>th</sup> hearing (and at the beginning of this hearing) a lot was said about wood being a renewable resource because forests regrow. Having listened carefully again tonight, I still do not believe the reasoning presented at either hearing supports that conclusion. I do not believe that any carbon-burning should be supported either in RPS I or II.

However, beyond that, the technologies and behaviors we should incentivizing should not only be renewable, but non-harmful to habitat and people (clean in other words). Even beyond that, I believe that our way through this global biological and climate crisis is to focus beyond harm reduction by moving towards creating, renewing and enhancing healthy biological ecologies and healthy and resilient human communities. If we had put humans and care for the biological world at the top of our consideration from the beginning of the industrial revolution, I don't believe we would find ourselves in this climate crisis. If we put life and humans first now, perhaps we have a chance to turn things around.

Biomass incineration falls way short of improving the world especially when it comes to the incineration facilities. There is nothing renewable about placing a biomass facility and the infrastructure to support it in any community. What we need in those communities (especially if they have been stressed by other non-life-enhancing factors) are environments that contribute to human health and healthy connections to the larger biological world. We need renewable, rejuvenating, and life-enhancing solutions. Biomass burning fails in this regard. Incentives would be much better spent on methods and technologies for reducing energy use.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Edward Olmstead  
Florence, MA