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My name is John Edwards. Thank you for coming to Western Mass, to our Flagship Campus, to give residents an opportunity to provide comments related to these important issues related to energy and natural resources. I have been a life long resident of Massachusetts, other than my tour of duty in the military. I came to this university in 1980, and received an advanced degree in Forest Science, a discipline I have practiced for almost 40 years.

If time allows I would like to comment on 3 issues.

Department of Energy Resources So Called Clarification of SREC /

House Bill 853 Alternative Portfolio Standards

House Bill 879 An Act Related to Forest Protection
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In 2011 I placed into service a 100 KV Dual Use Solar installation on my land in Hadley, about 2 miles from this building. I wanted to experiment with the idea of growing vegetables, and generating solar electricity. My project was the largest of its kind at the time, and possibly the most expensive. My installation cost was over \$5.00 per watt. I borrowed money from a local bank, and provided a pro-forma based on SREC income. I put my money "the banks money" where my mouth is, so to speak. You may remember this wasn't not the most secure of economic times. There was a lot of uncertainty at the time about where the economy was headed.

DOER, in presentations in 2009 and 2012 stated that SREC Generation would not end until the program ends. It seems clear what the intent was at the time, I banked on it at the time. Don't punish me now for being first.

My second concern is about how House Bill 853 Alternative Portfolio Standard which will effect forest landowners and forestry in Massachusetts. In my practice as a consulting forester, the single most difficult problem I face, other than the existing regulations, is the challenges of finding markets for low quality wood. Modern Wood Heat provides the best means to market and utilize these low value wood products. Wood is a local, renewable fuel that doesn't come from some country that doesn't like us very much. It is the people's fuel. This modern technology is ideal for homeowners and municipalities seeking ways to reduce costs and poses minimal risk to increased particulate and carbon emissions. Those who elect to invest in them, should have the same benefits as citizens who invest in other renewable energy.

Partnership for Policy Integrity has mischaracterized the science of the Manomet Study to serve their own political purposes in an attempt to, kill the baby in the crib so to speak. What do we tell the homeowners and businesses who invested in this new technology, who are reliant in Renewable Energy Credits? You're going to be punished for being first?

Last, and certainly not least, I want to address H897 An Act Relative to Forest Protection. By its very name this bill is misleading. As we have all noticed, we live in a time where climate change has created enormous damage to landscapes. How are resource managers supposed to cope with the effects of weather, fire and insects, as it relates to climate change, when the largest landowner in the Commonwealth, the state, has its hands tied? We need more management options on state land, not less. I wish we could have convened this meeting in the John W. Olver Design Building. We would all have a chance to see the future, to see how wood can be used, low quality wood, local products, not steel and concrete. This bill chip away at the state's role in demonstrating how forest management can be practiced. Some of the finest examples of forestry in practice can be seen on The Quabbin Reservior or on Mass Fish & Wildlife property across the state. This bill would extinguish that. This bill is a backward step, not the future.

Massachusetts is a place of firsts. The future is coming, we need to be prepared, not constrained.

Thank you.