

Re: Testimony for proposed RPS Class I and II regulations hearing

From:

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The Enviro Show

WXOJ & WMCB

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Our forests are one of the first lines of defense we have against the climate crisis. Trees and forest soil capture over about 30% of the CO2 emissions in the atmosphere. When they are logged and burned for biomass energy not only is their capacity to capture carbon gone but the disturbance of forest soils, the logging and transportation and eventual burning of the wood releases all that stored carbon and more back into the atmosphere, only exasperating the dire climate disruption we face. We need to protect and preserve our forests to do the work of carbon sequestration, not destroy them for not-truly-renewable wood biomass schemes to make Massachusetts seem like it is in keeping with its Global Warming Solutions Act; which it is not. The proposed changes in RPS Class I and II regulations would roll back every useful protection in the Massachusetts' biomass rules. In fact, DOER's wood availability study relinquishes our forest's critical carbon storage to biomass developers.

We must pursue truly clean, truly renewable sources of energy in the short time we have left to confront climate chaos. We must do that for our children and grandchildren and for all other lifeforms in the Commonwealth.