



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

House of Representatives

State House, Boston 02113-1054

John Wassam
Department of Energy Resources
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 1020
Boston, MA 02114

Re: Testimony opposing the proposed RPS Class I and RPS Class II regulation changes

I am writing in opposition to any rollbacks in rules from the Department of Energy Resources' that would allow biomass plants to obtain renewable energy subsidies in Massachusetts. There could not be a more essential time for the Commonwealth to assume a reliance on truly clean, renewable energy sources for heating and electricity. In the midst of a climate crisis, our state is facing serious repercussions should we fail to adopt renewable energy generation; however, it is essential that we execute this transition well.

We must eliminate state incentives for biomass energy production and contribute greatly to ensuring that the state only incentivizes clean, renewable energy sources. Biomass is an energy source that, while currently categorized as renewable, contributes to the emission of greenhouse gases and other air pollutants, deforestation in the state, and health problems, as well as takes a substantial amount of time to show positive emission impacts.

According to data from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Massachusetts emits more pollution from wood burning heating systems than any other state in the Northeast. Additionally, wood burning boilers contribute to greater CO2 emissions than those that use fossil fuels. Particulate matter is another specific concern that comes from wood burning biofuel. The Doctors and Scientists Against Wood Smoke Pollution report that particulate matter has been linked to serious health risks such as asthma, heart and lung disease, bronchitis, and more. The health impacts alone should be enough to reconsider incentivizing wood burning heating and energy sources.

However, the negative impacts of biomass energy production go further with their affects on our forests, ecosystems, and climate. Categorizing biomass as renewable assumes that the trees cut down for fuel will grow back quickly enough to counter the carbon being emitted by burning the wood. While it is true that Massachusetts forests sequester a great amount of carbon from our

atmosphere already, it is essential to continue that trend by decreasing the number of trees being cut down.

Subsidizing wood burning biofuel heating systems will undoubtedly increase the already large number in the state and further the demand for wood from our forests. This is something we cannot afford to do. We must strive for clean, renewable energy in Massachusetts by removing biomass from the Alternative Portfolio Standard list of renewables, in addition to passing H.853: An Act to assure the attainment of greenhouse gas emissions goals in the alternative portfolio standard, filed by Rep Denise Provost, this session.

Massachusetts must promote clean, renewable energy that is essential to aiding in the fight against global warming. Through putting an end to the promotion of biomass, Massachusetts has the chance to contribute to a healthier and greener future. I urge the Department of Energy Resources not to roll back regulations in the Renewable Portfolio Standards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Lindsay N. Sabadosa". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Representative Lindsay N. Sabadosa
1st Hampshire