

July 25, 2019

To DOER:
Attn: John Wassam

As the comment period closes regarding changes to the Massachusetts Renewable Portfolio Standard, we feel compelled to send in additional comments regarding the plan to allow renewable energy credits for biomass incineration plants that would produce energy:

We oppose the granting of renewable energy credits to companies that produce energy through biomass incineration. Biomass burning plants are dirtier than coal burning plants according to the Manomet Study and certainly will not help us deal with the climate change crisis. We should be moving away from fossil fuel sources of energy in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that threaten our planet.

Several years ago, the people of Western Massachusetts were able to stop the construction of biomass incineration plants in Russell, Greenfield and Palmer Massachusetts. Now the State is trying to go backwards and give renewable energy credits to this polluting industry. Our forests will be targeted as sources for wood fuel for these incinerators. Our forests should be preserved, not become sources of wood fuel for these biomass companies.

It is an outrage that this is even being considered and we urge the DOER and Governor Baker not to grant these credits that would engorge the biomass companies with funds that would allow them to pollute our environment and destroy our forests.

We are firm believers in environmental justice. Many times these biomass plants are planned in economically challenged communities. Often, these are communities where people of color reside. These are also areas where the asthma rates are unusually high. Think of the people of these communities! We should be working on energy sources that are truly renewable like solar, wind, and geothermal. These sources will create jobs, yet still protect our air.

The air that we breathe is precious and it is important for this generation and future generations to live in an atmosphere where we have clean air and pristine forests. BIOMASS=BIOMESS

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State Representative Lindsay Sabadosa
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