

Wassam, John (ENE)

From: Linda Butler <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 5, 2021 11:16 AM
To: DOER RPS (ENE)
Subject: RPS Public Comment

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

John Wassam,

Dear Commissioner Woodcock,

I am writing to you in regard to the proposed amendments to Massachusetts' Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) program on burning woody biomass.

I agree, biomass power plants should NOT be located in or near Environmental Justice communities

Therefore, I support keeping this amendment without change:

"A Generation Unit using Eligible Biomass Woody Fuel or Manufactured Biomass Fuel that is either: (i) sited in an environmental justice population or (ii) sited within 5 miles of an environmental justice population, shall not qualify as an RPS Class I Renewable Generation Unit."

But I'm concerned about your plans to require only new biomass power plants to meet a 60% efficiency requirement. I oppose these plans.

Under current RPS regulations, ALL biomass power plants must meet that requirement in order to qualify for renewable energy credits. If you eliminate efficiency requirements for existing biomass plants, you'd let dozens of highly polluting and inefficient biomass plants in Maine and across the Northeast qualify for ratepayer subsidies as long as they claim to burn "non forest derived residues."

Even if they can prove that's true, that they're not burning trees logged for fuel, these plants emit large amounts of (a) air pollution that's bad for our health and (b) greenhouse gas emissions that only exacerbate the climate crisis.

I am appalled at the idea that DOER's plan would use Massachusetts' ratepayer funds to prop up failing out-of-state biomass power plants!

This would be a major step backwards for the Commonwealth.

Please leave the existing biomass eligibility criteria in the RPS intact and add the proposed provision to protect environmental justice communities.

Thank you.

Linda Butler

butleresl@gmail.com

74 Grove Avenue

Leeds, Massachusetts 01053-9721