

**Wassam, John (ENE)**

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**From:** Felicia Mednick <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 16, 2021 11:24 PM  
**To:** DOER RPS (ENE)  
**Subject:** RPS Public Comment

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John Wassam,

Dear Commissioner Woodcock,

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

First off, I want to applaud the recent decision to prevent highly polluting biomass plants from being located close to Environmental Justice communities, such as in Springfield. These communities are already overburdened with environmental toxins, and it would be wrong to add to their health burdens.

However, the fact that these plants spew out a lot of particulate matter should be of concern to any community! Air pollution will hurt the youngest and the oldest/the most vulnerable in any community, and should not be facilitated by the state.

On top of that, it makes no sense to give Renewable Portfolio Standard credits to a plant that is warming our environment!!! The reason we need renewable energy rather than carbon based energy is that we are trying to heal an environment that is heating up. A biomass plant, especially one that runs at less than 60% efficiency will be adding to climate change. It's a farce to give RPS credits to a plant that is adding to climate change! Please do not weaken the efficiency requirements for existing biomass plants!

I urge you to leave the existing biomass eligibility criteria in the RPS intact, while adding the proposed provision to protect environmental justice communities.

Thank you.

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