

Wassam, John (ENE)

From: Ernesta Krackiewicz <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 13, 2021 5:11 PM
To: DOER RPS (ENE)
Subject: RPS Public Comment

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John Wassam,

Dear Governor Baker, Secretary Theoharides, and Commissioner Woodcock,

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

Although I agree with the proposed provision that would protect environmental communities, I strongly disagree with the proposed revision which would eliminate efficiency requirements for existing biomass plants. This change would allow dozens of highly polluting and inefficient biomass plants across the Northeast to qualify for ratepayer subsidies if they claim to burn "non forest derived residues." (This term includes sawmill wastes, tree trimmings, and even whole trees.) Even if they can prove they are truly burning wood residues, rather than trees logged for fuel, these plants produce large quantities of health-harming air pollution, and greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change.

It is imperative now to do whatever we can to mitigate climate change, reduce harmful air pollution, and promote new sources of clean, renewable energy. The new state law on climate change requires this, and it is what we need to safeguard our health and that of the planet. Please 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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