

Wassam, John (ENE)

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Sent: Wednesday, May 5, 2021 1:03 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.

I completely agree that biomass power plants should not be located in or near Environmental Justice communities. Please keep 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."

However, I am not in favor of the use of biomass at all. Biomass is indeed technically renewable as trees can be planted and replaced but we are talking replacement over decades, especially for hardwoods. The loss of the carbon held by the trees plus the release in their burning is counter to the goal of reducing CO2 in the atmosphere. Biomass should not be included as an acceptable renewable resource.

DOER's plan to use Massachusetts' ratepayer funds to prop up failing out-of-state biomass power plants will do nothing to mitigate climate change, reduce harmful air pollution, or promote new sources of clean, renewable energy. This proposal is inconsistent with the state's recent acknowledgement of the health impacts from biomass power plant emissions and is a major step backwards for a state that has been a national leader on climate issues.

I urge you to eliminate consideration of biomass as a renewable fuel and eliminate any support of the industry.

Thank you.

Ruth Ladd

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