

## **Wassam, John (ENE)**

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**From:** Karry Muzzey <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 7:18 PM  
**To:** DOER RPS (ENE)  
**Subject:** Public Comment on RPS

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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 related to wood biomass energy.

I wholeheartedly support the proposal 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."

Your proposal to eliminate the 60% efficiency requirements for existing biomass plants in order to qualify for renewable energy credits in Massachusetts would allow dozens of highly polluting and inefficient biomass plants in Maine and across the Northeast to qualify for ratepayer subsidies simply for claiming to burn "non forest derived residues." These plants emit large quantities of health-harming air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change, and should not qualify for such subsidies.

DOER's plan to use Massachusetts' ratepayer funds to prop up biomass power plants will have the opposite of the desired effect to promote clean & renewable energy. We need to ensure that Massachusetts remains an environmental leader in reducing harmful emissions.

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

Thank you.

Karry Muzzey

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