

Wassam, John (ENE)

From: Don Ogden <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 5, 2021 1:16 PM
To: DOER RPS (ENE)
Subject: RPS Public Comment

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John Wassam,

Commissioner Woodcock,

We are contacting you to comment on the proposed amendments to Massachusetts' Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) program pertaining to burning dirty woody biomass.

Yes, biomass power plants should not be located in or near Environmental Justice communities nor should they be sited anywhere in the Commonwealth.

Any power plant burning dirty woody biomass should be ineligible from qualifying for the RPS program.

Your plans to only require new biomass power plants to meet a 60% efficiency requirement are mistaken. Under the current RPS regulations, ALL biomass power plants must meet that requirement in order to qualify for renewable energy credits in Massachusetts.

Your proposal to eliminate efficiency requirements for existing biomass plants allows dozens of highly polluting and inefficient biomass plants in Maine and across the Northeast to qualify for ratepayer subsidies if they claim to burn "non forest derived residues." That's unrealistic.

DOER's plan to use Massachusetts' ratepayer funds to prop up dirty failing out-of-state biomass power plants does nothing to mitigate the Climate Crisis, reduce harmful air pollution, or promote new sources of clean, renewable energy. This proposal is totally 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 was once a national leader on climate issues.

Don Ogden

lionoak@gmail.com

The Enviro ShowWXOJ

Florence, Massachusetts 01062