



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
House of Representatives
24 Beacon Street
State House, Boston 02113 - 1054

LINDSAY N. SABADOSA
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
1ST HAMPSHIRE DISTRICT

Department of Energy Resources,
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 1020,
Boston, MA 02114,
ATTN: John Wassam
May 17, 2021

Dear Commissioner Woodcock,

I am writing to submit public comments regarding the new DOER regulations for RPS Phase 1, Class 1 and Class 2 rulemaking and the RPS Phase 2, Class 1 and Class 2 rulemaking as relate to the proposed Phase 2 biomass changes.

Phase 1, Class 1 and 2

I have heard a great deal of concern about the provision that would retroactively change SREC 1 eligibility to 40 quarters for solar facilities that were originally enrolled in the SREC 1 program under a different set of terms and conditions. Making a retroactive change to long-established rules changes the rules mid-game for early solar adapters and sets a dangerous precedent for potential future investors. This also goes against the recommendations of the Net Metering Task Force, which instructed DOER not to remove SREC benefits retroactively from qualified projects participating in the SREC program in 2015 and 2016.

The proposed draft regulation also reduces the MA Class I Alternative Compliance Payment (ACP) from its current rate of about \$71 to \$40. The ACP is the amount that utilities must pay if they do not purchase enough Renewable Energy Certificates to meet their minimum obligation; in essence, it is a cap on the price of RECs in the marketplace. By reducing the cap, the current proposal threatens to curtail investment in renewables in Massachusetts and is a significant departure from DOER's original rule change proposal in April 2019 where they wanted to cap the ACP at \$70 and not adjust for inflation.

Phase 2, Class 1 and 2

It is important that we support the provision to prohibit generation units using eligible Biomass Woody Fuel from qualifying for the RPS program if they are located within an environmental justice population or 5 miles from an environmental justice population. This

provision is relevant in Massachusetts because it would prevent operations like the Palmer Renewable Energy Plant that burns inefficient biomasses. In addition to the inefficiency of the plant it also lowers air quality drastically which affects residents in nearby Springfield.

Additionally, Massachusetts' restrictions on biomass eligibility are already the strictest in the country, consistent with the Commonwealth's landmark Manomet Study. For this reason, it is important we keep ahead of the curve in our fight against climate change. This is why it I oppose the amendment that "Require(s) all Generation Units with a Commercial Operation Date after 12/31/2020 to meet a 60% overall efficiency requirement, regardless of the type of feedstock." All electric-generating biomass plants are already required to be 60% efficient since 2012. This amendment would actually open the door for some plants to use less efficient biomass.

I respectfully request that DOER to drop its current proposals that damage these two programs. Ultimately it is important that the Commonwealth keeps moving forward in its leadership to combat climate change and, I feel, that the changes suggested above will better help us to do so while protecting the health and safety of our residents. Thank you for your consideration and I remain available for any questions or comments.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lindsay N. Sabadosa". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lindsay" being more prominent than the last name "Sabadosa".

Lindsay N. Sabadosa
State Representative, 1st Hampshire