



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1054

DENISE ANDREWS
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
2ND FRANKLIN DISTRICT
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Committees on:
Revenue
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Governor Deval Patrick
Lt. Governor Tim Murray
State House, Room 280
Boston, MA 02133

Subject: Biomass Regulation Direction

Governor Patrick & Lt. Governor Murray:

Thank you for your sustained leadership to insure Massachusetts continues to craft a thoughtful approach on economic development, the environment, public health and energy policy. Recently, it was brought to my attention by several constituents and experts in the biomass field that regulations concerning biomass energy generation may soon be relaxed and replaced with inappropriate regulations.

Massachusetts must continue to lead by modeling appropriate regulation and standards that make sense on many levels – energy, return on investment, environmental stewardship, public health and prosperity. I know you and your administration are committed to these principles.

It is with some urgency that I respectfully request your assistance to reinforce the direction that was contained in the original draft regulations on biomass energy generation and subsidies. With the change in the Secretariat role, there appears to be a lack of understanding and continuation of the excellent work that went into the draft regulations in light of the findings of the Manomet study.

I have attended several hearings on this issue, read the Manomet report and know we must invest in good policy, good business and good energy alternatives. From this research and engagement I have come to the opinion that for many reasons, large-scale biomass has yet to meet the high standards we expect from industry.

I have read the letter written by over a dozen environmental organizations asking for changes to your biomass regulations. I fully support the position of these environmental groups and therefore ask specifically that you strengthen the biomass regulations by incorporating into them the suggestions made by those environmental organizations.

My district is home to a number of leaders that are very active and committed to insuring that we set the best policy on biomass. These leaders have asked me to personally reach out to each of you so that you may be briefed on where we are and where we need to be. Two very helpful resources that I believe can help insure that we, Massachusetts, set appropriate policy and regulations with regard to biomass are Arline Issacson at arline.issacson@gmail.com and Janet Sinclair at jasinclair@verizon.net.

Thank you for your leadership and I would request that you again step forward on a compelling issue that faces our Commonwealth and my district. Let us again have Massachusetts lead on great policy and direction. Please insure that the original intent of the draft regulations will be carried forward.

Sincerely,



DENISE ANDREWS

State Representative

Second Franklin District