

**To:** Department of Energy Resources

**From:** Denise Andrews

Orange, MA and a Candidate for State Representative 2<sup>nd</sup> Franklin District

**Subject:** Biomass Proposed Regulations Public Comments      October 19, 2010

I am responding to your invitation to share written comments on the recently proposed Biomass Regulations.

First, I continue to appreciate the strategic leadership from Governor Patrick, his administration and the citizen's of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Franklin District to lead in sustainable and green technology and living. We must stay the course in leading and achieving our state-mandated goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions 80 percent by 2050.

I recently attended the public hearing held on October 15 and the two leaders leading this forum were sharp, respectful and outstanding. Please pass on this appreciation and feedback.

My objectives in attending were twofold:

First, to increase my knowledge on biomass, specifically, what are the desires and rationales of the citizens, what are the perspectives and findings of the technical community, and what is the health of public engagement, policy direction and collaborative future planning.

My second objective for attending is to be a fully engaged, collaborative, visible and an effective leader and citizen on this important issue.

The hearing was enlightening, educational and extremely beneficial.

My comments for your consideration are:

1. All policy and investment need to address three important points:
  - The technology is sound to achieving our state-mandated goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions 80 percent by 2050 and the 2020 goals.
  - It is environmentally sound.
  - It is fiscally sound and good return on investment.

Stay true to the intent of REC's.

2. The efficiency of the technology needs to be above 80%. Do not relax this standard. Holding to 80% or above is the standard in top businesses. This standard will drive better technology resulting in an increase positive impact on both environment and the financials of this investment.
3. All stakeholders should be present in crafting and the decision and governing structures established. (Environmentalists, Foresters, Experts in key fields (Forest, Soil, Carbon Emissions, alternative Technologies), Business, Health Care, and Government.
4. The 15% standard on what is left in the stand appears to be more complex due to soil variation. This may need a standard that takes this variation into account. Perhaps soil sampling and then a required percent based on the sampling outcomes. Create a correlation chart versus an across the board standard.
5. Enforcement and accountability must be designed in. Policy, audits, enforcement and penalties must incent good decisions and efficient and effective compliance.

I want to commend Governor Patrick and the DOER on their bold leadership on engagement and collaborative complex problem solving and solution execution.

Thank you for working diligently in leading our commonwealth in sustainable green living.

I can be reached at 1.978.633.4302, [deniseandrews2010@gmail.com](mailto:deniseandrews2010@gmail.com), or 21 Beach Lane, Orange, MA 01364.

Denise Andrews