



NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

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To: Senator Gobi, Senate Chair
Representative Pignatelli, House Chair
Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources, and Agriculture

Cc: Representative Peisch
Senator Creem
Senator Rausch

RE: H.853 - An Act To Assure The Attainment Of Greenhouse Gas Emissions Goals In The Alternative Portfolio Standard

June 21, 2019

Dear Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources, and Agriculture:

The Wellesley Natural Resources Commission urges you to support H.853, *An Act To Assure The Attainment Of Greenhouse Gas Emissions Goals In The Alternative Portfolio Standard*. This act eliminates subsidies for wood burning and trash incineration in the Alternative Portfolio Standard (APS) and will protect our health, our climate, and our natural environment to accelerate the transition to clean, renewable heating technologies in Massachusetts.

As the Tree Warden for our town, we are acutely aware of the benefits trees and forests provide to our environment. They clean, protect and store our drinking water; clean our air; provide valuable wildlife habitat; prevent flooding by capturing stormwater; and cool our warming world. The cutting of forests and burning of trees should not be considered clean and renewable energy, and we are dismayed that new standards which would weaken existing regulations on Biofuel are being proposed by the Baker Administration and considered by the Mass Department of Energy Resources.

We are already seeing the effects of climate change in Wellesley and across the globe. What we do in Massachusetts matters. Burning wood for fuel is not the answer to solving our energy needs. This practice will only increase greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution, and lead to the destruction of our forests, which are our greatest line of defense against climate change.

We urge you to support H.853 and to strengthen it further with an amendment that will remove woody biomass fuel from the list of eligible renewable energy sources in the Renewable Portfolio Standard as well.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

On behalf of the Commission,

Brandon Schmitt, Director
Wellesley Natural Resources Commission