

From: Chris Matera <christoforest@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 4, 2021 11:02 AM
To: Faith Brown <FBrown@leg.state.vt.us>; Ann Cummings <ACUMMINGS@leg.state.vt.us>; Mark MacDonald <MMacDonald@leg.state.vt.us>; chris@senatorpearson.com; Randy Brock <RBrock@leg.state.vt.us>; Michael Sirotkin <msirotkin@leg.state.vt.us>; sirotkin.senate@gmail.com; Christopher Bray <CBray@leg.state.vt.us>; cbray@sover.net; Ruth Hardy <RHardy@leg.state.vt.us>; Christopher Pearson <CPearson@leg.state.vt.us>; senatormark@aol.com
Subject: [External] RE: S. 1 - An act relating to extending the baseload renewable power portfolio requirement

[External]

Dear Vermont Senate Committee,

Please accept these comments regarding: ***"S. 1 - An act relating to extending the baseload renewable power portfolio requirement"***

1. The carbon footprint of Ryegate (and biomass power plants in general) is 50% higher than a coal plant and 250% higher than a gas plant per unit of energy produced. See page 3 here for the comparison of an old coal plant (now closed) to brand new biomass with the best pollution controls:

<http://www.maforests.org/VermontBiomassBiomess.pdf>

2. Ryegate (and biomass power plants in general) pollute even worse than coal plants for many conventional pollutants such as particulates. The same document compares pollutants between the same old coal plant with new biomass plants with the most modern pollution controls. See page 3:

<http://www.maforests.org/VermontBiomassBiomess.pdf>

Vermont already has among the highest asthma rates in the country.

<https://learn.uvm.edu/blog/blog-health/asthma-rates-in-vermont>

3. The 250,000 tons of wood demand from Ryegate is a significant source of pressure on area forests, and now Vermont is also planning on doubling wood burning by 2030. The greater the wood demand, the greater the forest ecological impacts. Logging does not "help" forests, it degrades them:

[http://www.maforests.org/Timberspeak-Timber Industry Propaganda.pd](http://www.maforests.org/Timberspeak-Timber_Industry_Propaganda.pd)

For a look a sampling of the clearcutting currently occurring across Vermont, and the proposed hurricane of logging coming to Green Mountain National Forest, please see this link:

<http://www.maforests.org/VERMONTCLEARCUTTING.pdf>

None of my statements above are meant to defend fossil fuels, but are used to show just how dirty biomass energy really is, and to demonstrate how hypocritical it is for Vermont to pretend it cares about the climate as it subsidizes what is essentially one of the most carbon polluting sources of energy that exists, just because it is "local".

Keep in mind, coal is "local" to West Virginians.

Why not instead use the \$5 million in annual subsidies to Ryegate to employ people restoring nature instead of degrading it and installing genuinely clean energy solutions such as solar, geothermal, micro-hydro, efficiency, etc, and thus walk the climate talk?

\$5 million would support 100 jobs at \$50,000 salary, instead of the 20 jobs currently at Ryegate.

Sincerely,

Chris Matera, PE
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