

From: Mark N <m.a.nelson@live.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 4:21 PM
To: Ann Cummings <ACUMMING@leg.state.vt.us>
Cc: Faith Brown <FBrown@leg.state.vt.us>
Subject: [External] Senate Finance Committee - S.1 An act relating to extending the baseload renewable power portfolio requirement

[External]

Chair Cummings - I am sending this email to voice my objection to S.1 - An act relating to extending the baseload renewable power portfolio requirement. There is ample scientific evidence that biomass is not carbon neutral and is not sustainable. In fact, biomass emits more carbon into the air for every kilowatt hour of heat or electricity than fossil fuels. In addition, carbon is released during the logging process. See the attached letter from several scientists to President Biden and other world leaders about the fallacies of biomass.

It should be noted that, according to the American Lung Association 2018 data, Vermont already has some of the highest asthma rates in the US among both adults and children. Biomass energy plants release significant amounts of harmful particulates into the atmosphere. There is not reason why we should be adding to the airborne particulates that cause and exacerbate asthma rates.

See the American Lung Association website for details:

<https://www.lung.org/research/trends-in-lung-disease/asthma-trends-brief/current-demographics>

Current Asthma Demographics | American Lung Association

View current asthma rates across demographic groups including sex and age, race/ethnicity, Hispanic subgroups, family income, health insurance coverage, and state.

www.lung.org

Please communicate my objections to S.1 and the information included in this email to the other members of the Senate Committee on Finance.

Thank you,
Mark Nelson
Ripton, Vermont

"The wildlife and its habitat cannot speak, so we must and will." ~ Theodore Roosevelt