

Hello Committee Members,

I just wanted to send my support for the Rygate Power Contract Renewal that is under review at this time. I am a consulting forester in central, Vermont and many of the loggers I use depend on this plant to send their biomass to. Many times the timbersales I over see require the removal of very low grade wood to help practice silviculture that promotes a healthy and diverse forest. Without the ability to utilize Rygate Power, many of these sales, or portions of these sales that are primary low-grade removal would not be possible without this outlet, or will become very expensive to the landowner with no good market for the material. To further complicate the matter, with virtually no softwood pulp market since the Verso Mill blew up, which they have decided not to rebuild, the only option to utilize the softwood pulp is to send it for biomass. The Rygate Power Plant helps support hundreds of jobs that range from truckers, loggers, consulting foresters, and the plant workers. This is not only locally, but regionally as well.

I hope you consider the renewal of this contract.

Sincerely

Ryan



"Over 75 years of Forestry Experience"

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