

November 9, 2016

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Honorable Kathleen Burgess  
Secretary  
NYS Public Service Commission  
3 Empire State Plaza  
Albany, NY 12223

Dear Secretary Burgess,

I am currently a citizen and community member in Northern New York. I support the petitions filed recently that ask the Commission to reconsider the Clean Energy Standard Order that was adopted on August 1.

I, along with hundreds of other community members, feel that the Clean Energy Standard did not adequately consider existing renewable projects, including biomass power facilities.

New York has a \$11.5 billion forest product industry which supports our economy as a whole. Logger's harvest their product sustainably and care for our forests. Biomass energy makes use of this plentiful and well managed natural resource. Biomass for energy production is a significant part of New York's low-grade biomass market, and overall support to New York's forest products industry and woodland owners.

With the risk of a local biomass power facility closing, we as citizens and community members, along with our rural economy, will suffer tremendously. Loggers will have fewer places to sell their products; landowners will have fewer sustainable forest management options, and farmers will not be able to reclaim agricultural land in a cost-effective way. A family member who may be a logger, a neighbor who owns an equipment dealership to maintain the logging equipment, or a friend who owns a local restaurant or shop, to name a few, will suffer dramatically from the economic decline that will occur. We, as a region, will stand to lose jobs, markets for low-value fiber, and risk forest degradation.

I, as a community member living in an economy that is largely dependent on the forest product industry, urge the Commission to recognize these risks and to develop a strong program for existing renewable projects.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

