

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1054

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Committees on:
Judiciary, Vice Chair
Ways and Means
Economic Development and Emerging Technologies

April 7, 2009

Margaret E. Sheehan
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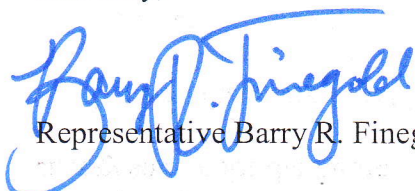
Dear Ms. Sheehan:

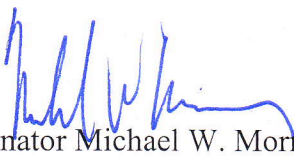
Thank you for contacting my office regarding your concerns about the classification of biomass fuel as renewable energy in 225 CMR 14.00 and 15.00. I understand your concerns, but while biomass technology may not yet be as energy efficient as we would like, it is only by fostering development in this field that we will discover whether biomass can be a viable renewable energy source for the future.

I understand that there are still uncertainties in the science and policy regarding the accounting of greenhouse gas emissions from a biomass unit. However, given our good record of regulation of forest management here in Massachusetts, we believe that CO₂ emissions from biomass plants can be "netted to zero" by the growth of biomass in the forest. The net-zero carbon emissions from biomass is generally accepted in policy and greenhouse gas accounting in the European Union and with the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI).

Again, I thank you for contacting our office with your concerns. We will not be holding a hearing on this issue at this time, but please feel free to submit written comments to my office if you so wish.

Sincerely,


Representative Barry R. Finegold
cc: Anne Bingham


Senator Michael W. Morrissey