

*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1054

**BARRY R. FINEGOLD**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
17TH ESSEX DISTRICT  
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Committees on:  
Judiciary, Vice Chair  
Ways and Means  
Economic Development and Emerging Technologies

April 7, 2009

Margaret E. Sheehan  
Attorney at Law  
732 Main Street  
Williamstown, MA 01267

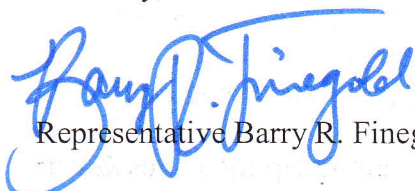
Dear Ms. Sheehan:

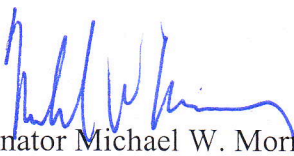
Thank you for contacting my office regarding your concerns about the classification of biomass fuel as renewable energy in 225 CMR 14.00 and 15.00. I understand your concerns, but while biomass technology may not yet be as energy efficient as we would like, it is only by fostering development in this 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 CO<sub>2</sub> 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