



To: Amherst Town Council

From: League of Women Voters of Amherst,
Sustainability and Climate Action Committee

Resolution Opposing the Palmer/Springfield Biomass Power Plant

WHEREAS:

- Rising levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide have created a global climate emergency
- Wood-fired power plants emit more carbon dioxide per kilowatt hour of electricity generation than coal (2012 Manomet Study)
- More than 60 years are necessary to regenerate a forest to the prior level of carbon dioxide sequestration
- Wood-fired power plants emit far more respirable particulates than coal, causing serious health hazards
- Particulate and gaseous pollution from the planned Palmer/Springfield power plant would increase hazardous pollution throughout the Pioneer Valley
- The planned Palmer/Springfield woody biomass power plant would be sited in a low-income area of Springfield, exacerbating an already serious environmental justice situation
- The DOER Renewable Portfolio Standards are poised to define wood-burning power plants as “non-carbon emitting”, allowing the millions of dollars in rebates that would make the Palmer/Springfield power plant profitable

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Amherst Town Council strongly opposes the Palmer Renewable Energy wood-burning power plant and the irreparable harm it would cause to the environment and human health

The Amherst Town Council protests the use of state subsidies or other incentives to support large-scale woody biomass power plants

The Amherst Town Council calls on Gov. Baker, the Legislature's Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy Committee, and the DOER to reject the inaccurate definition of large-scale woody biomass burning as “carbon neutral” and to strike any inclusion of woody biomass from the update to the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standards

The Amherst Town Council urges our State Legislators to pass legislation rapidly in 2021 that will permanently ban large-scale woody biomass power plants in the Commonwealth and any state subsidies for such use