

My name is Robert Harrington, and I live at 255 White Oaks Road in Laconia. I am a member of the North Country Resource Conservation and Development Council, part of a program of the US Department of Agriculture that promotes rural economic development focused on natural resources, and one of the goals in our 2011 plan of work is to work with schools, communities and other complexes that have heating needs to help them explore the merits of solid biomass heating using wood.

The state of New Hampshire is heavily dependent on fossil fuels for heating and also has abundant forest resources which can be used sustainably to greatly reduce this dependency on imported fuels. While much of the focus to date has been on use of woody biomass for electricity generation, greater efficiency can be attained through using biomass for heating or co-generation, while promoting the local forest industry and local economies.

I would urge that incentives for use of renewable thermal energy (woody biomass) be included the the New Hampshire Renewable Portfolio Standard.

Thank you for your consideration,
Robert Harrington